



Iraq, U.N. reach agreements

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq and the United Nations have resolved a dispute over destroying chemical weapons equipment, the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations said Saturday. Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun said in an interview with CNN that Iraq had also agreed in principle to let the U.N. install monitoring cameras at missile test sites in Iraq. Mr. Hamdoun said: "We have resolved one of the outstanding problems which were under discussion for the last couple of weeks — which is the destruction of some of the chemical weapons equipment." He gave no details of the agreement. "On the other matter of the cameras we are talking with them and we've told them that we are prepared to address that issue," he added. "We are not against it in principle. All we want is to reach some kind of agreement on the technicalities." Mr. Hamdoun said the U.S. cruise missile attack on the headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence service in Baghdad last Sunday had done serious damage to the buildings. But he said he doubted the physical damage had much effect on the ability of the intelligence services to function. On relations with the United States, he said: "We still think at some point maybe it will be more feasible for this administration to start to deal with Iraq again. We are not talking about getting back into friendship or alliance but at least to normalise and quiet down the atmosphere between the two countries."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Volume 17 Number 5347

AMMAN SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1993 MUHARRAM 14, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Egypt dragging feet on human rights — Amnesty

CAIRO (R) — The human rights group Amnesty International said on Saturday the Egyptian government had failed to take action to stop torture and extra-judicial killings by security forces. Amnesty Secretary-General Pierre Sané told a news conference he met Interior Minister Hassan Al Afi, other senior officials and human rights groups in Egypt in the past week. "But I must say that in spite of the open dialogue we are still waiting for some concrete steps, and concrete measures to be taken by the Egyptian government," he said.

Bashir voices support for Saddam

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir decried the U.S. missile attack against Baghdad as "a shameful desire for hegemony" and voiced support for Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. Gen. Bashir, in a message to President Saddam following Sunday's attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters, said Khartoum backed Baghdad "in its struggle for justice, peace and progress." INA reported. He urged "all the people in the world to confront the aggression on Iraq." Gen. Bashir expressed anger over what he described as "the state of the world in the face of a shameful desire for hegemony," in a reference to the United States.

'Spy spilled Iraqi reactor secret'

TEL AVIV (AP) — An American Jewish building contractor dug up critical intelligence that enabled Israel's bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, a new book excerpted this weekend in a newspaper suggests. The book called "A Spy in Canaan: My Life as a Jewish American Businessman spying for Israel in Arab Lands," by Howard H. Schack, of a northern suburb of New York City, was recently published by Birch Lane in the United States. The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said that Mr. Schack, 67, worked for Israeli Mossad intelligence from 1974 to 1986, culled information on building projects in Arab countries.

4 killed in blast at Hizbollah base

BAALBEK (AP) — A blast rocked a base used by Iranian-backed fundamentalists Saturday, killing at least four people, security sources said. Four others were wounded, the sources added. Police said they did not know what caused the explosion because gunmen from Hizbollah had sealed off the base in the Bekaa Valley village of Ain Bourday. Hizbollah's press office in Beirut issued a brief statement identifying the victims and blaming the explosion on a "rocket-propelled grenade which was mistakenly launched inside the party building in Bourday."

Angolan army says it killed 300 rebels

LUANDA (R) — About 300 rebels were killed last month in an Angolan government offensive to push them away from besieged northern city of Malanje, the official news agency ANGOP said Saturday. ANGOP quoted General Matias Coelho "Nzumbi," second in command of the northeast front, as saying government soldiers and police seized weapons and destroyed eight rebel vehicles in fighting between June 1 and 23. But Gen. Nzumbi said the situation in the area was worrying as rebels still controlled many towns. He said much depended on how fighting developed in the nearby provinces of Bie, Huambo and Kuanza-Sul which are largely controlled by rebels.

2 killed in Kabul rocket attack

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A barrage of rockets hit the Afghan capital Kabul Saturday, killing at least two people and injuring five, state-run Radio Kabul said. The broadcast, monitored here, said eight rockets fired from southwest of Kabul landed in residential parts of the city (Des-

Palestinians tell U.S. peace talks in danger

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Palestinian peace negotiators told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Saturday that the Middle East peace process was in danger and urged Washington to move to prevent it from collapsing. "We informed them (the Americans) of the seriousness of the situation now and of the need to move to save the peace process," Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told Reuters. Senior Palestinian leader Faisal Al Hussein and Dr. Ashrawi met Mr. Christopher for 30 minutes at the State Department and told him they would not deal with a U.S. draft proposal intended to help Israelis and Palestinians overcome deep differences. The proposal was submitted on Wednesday.

Palestinians and Israelis failed during the 10th round of talks which ended on Thursday to reach an agreement on the principles that would guide future Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinian delegation was so distressed by the paper that it requested Saturday's meeting with Mr. Christopher before an American delegation, headed by Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, arrives in the region next week.

According to a copy of the paper, which has not been made public, one section states: "The inclusion or exclusion of specific spheres of authority, geographic areas or categories of persons within the jurisdiction of the interim self-government will not prejudice the positions or claims of either party and will not constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying any party's claim to territorial sovereignty in the permanent status negotiations. As such, the issue of jurisdiction over the territories will only be resolved as an outcome of the permanent status negotiations."

Asked about that passage, Palestinian officials replied that such language seems to put Israel on an equal footing with the Palestinians concerning the issue of territorial sovereignty and therefore contradicts the principle of land for peace embodied in Security Council Resolution 242. "Our position is that our right to sovereignty is not open for negotiation, either now nor in the final status talks," Palestinian Advisor

Nabil Shaath told the New York Times.

In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the United States had strayed from the original terms of reference for the Middle East peace process. But the Palestinians continue to support a peace process "which is based on international legitimacy and which guarantees (Arab) sovereignty over all occupied territories, including East Jerusalem," the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

The agency was quoting from the Palestinian response to the U.S. document. A PLO official in Amman said Friday the organisation had rejected the document, which was designed to bridge the gap between Israelis and Palestinians on self-government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Palestinian leadership handed a written reply to the U.S. State Department rejecting the document," said the official, Saleh Ra'afat. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday that the United States could not force a solution to the deadlock in the peace talks.

"The Americans can be bridge-builders... but in no way can they be imposers, commanders, substitutes," Mr. Peres told Israel's army radio. "What I've said to you I assume will be said as well as to Mr. Dennis Ross," Mr. Peres told the radio interviewer. Mr. Peres did not reject the U.S. draft, saying it could be discussed, but he added Israel was not happy.

"It is not only the issue of Jerusalem... the essential thing is that we've withdrawn from something agreed and moved to discussion again," Mr. Peres said. Mr. Peres will visit Egypt, the only Arab state formally at peace with Israel, next week to consult with President Hosni Mubarak on advancing the peace talks.

The president of Israel's chambers of commerce said Friday that an Israeli-Palestinian economic council would soon be set up to spur the creation of joint industrial ventures. Danny Gillerman said that the Israeli chambers of commerce were leading the initiative. "We have contacted the most important Palestinian and Jordanian businessmen and they've agreed to the project," he said.

He said he had "no objection" to include PLO representatives in the council.

The council will discuss economic cooperation and ways of setting up joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial projects concurrently with the Middle East bilateral and multilateral peace talks, he added.

Arab and Israeli officials, engaged in peace negotiations since October 1991, are also discussing regional economic cooperation as part of multilateral talks.

Israeli industrialists will also try to "set up a \$100 million investment fund" for the Israeli-occupied territories in cooperation with U.S., European, Japanese, Arab, Palestinian and Israeli businessmen," he added.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian will lead the U.S. delegation to the third meeting in Moscow next week of the steering group for the multilateral negotiations. He will co-chair the meeting with his Russian counterpart, Ambassador Victor Posuvaluk, director of the African and Middle East Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and will also review the status of the bilateral peace talks and discuss other Middle East issues with Russian officials, a U.S. spokesman said.

Among the bilateral negotiating parties, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians will participate in the steering group meeting. In addition to the U.S. and Russian co-sponsors, other participants include Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the European Community, Canada and Japan.

The steering group will review the progress of the five multilateral working groups: Arms control and regional security, economic development, refugees, environment, and water resources.

Each of these groups has met three times since the inception of the Madrid process.

Mr. Djerejian will visit Brussels on July 8 for discussions with European Community (EC) officials on Middle East issues. These consultations will include follow-up on Mr. Christopher's June 9, 1993, discussion of Iran with EC foreign ministers.

Mr. Djerejian will then proceed to the Middle East where he will join Mr. Ross and other members of the U.S. peace team for discussions with leaders in the region.

4 Israeli soldiers wounded by grenade

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — Four Israeli soldiers were wounded Saturday when two hand grenades were thrown near army headquarters in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army said.

It said none of the soldiers was seriously wounded in the Gaza City incident and the attacker escaped.

Israel Radio earlier said one grenade was thrown at a guard post at the headquarters in the centre of the city.

Palestinians said they saw the grenades fly out of a Peugeot car with the kind of number plates issued to Arabs in the strip.

Palestinian sources said troops fanned out into the district around the military base immediately after the attack, detaining dozens of Palestinians for identity checks and forcing all shops to close. The soldiers set up many roadblocks.

Palestinian sources said Israeli soldiers wounded two Palestinians with gunfire during demonstrations at Jabalya in the Gaza Strip.

Masked men gunned down a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel Saturday. Muslim fundamentalists published a leaflet identifying two slain gunmen from a July 1 bus attack in Jerusalem.

Sami Abu Ramadan, 23, was shot by masked men as he stopped his BMW sedan for a traffic light in Gaza City, Arab reporters said. They said he sustained gunshot wounds in the head and abdomen and died instantly. Responsibility for the killing was claimed by the Red Eagles,

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Ramadan would be the 739th Palestinian slain as an alleged collaborator by a fellow Palestinian during the five and a half year uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

Another 1,122 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and 139 Israelis have died in unrest.

The leaflet identifying Thursday's bus assailants who also commandeered an Israeli car while fleeing, was signed by the Izzedine Qassem military arm of the Hamas fundamentalist group, and circulated in Hebron in the West Bank.

It named them as Maher Abu Srour of Bethlehem and Mohammad Hindi of Jebalya refugee camp in Gaza.

Two women were killed in the attack, which shattered several months of calm in Jerusalem and underscored a deadlock reached in Middle East peace talks.

A Hamas leaflet Friday said the men had planned a hostage-taking mission to demand the release of Palestinian detainees, and Lebanese Sheikh Abdulkarim Obeid. Sheikh Obeid was abducted by Israel as a bargaining chip for missing men in 1989.

Israel Radio said a copy of their demands found on the bus, also called for freedom for some 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel as alleged fundamentalist activists in December. The men are stranded in a tent camp in southern Lebanon.

Srour was also suspected of shooting to death a Shin Beth secret security agent in a safe house in Jerusalem in January,

Clinton extends test ban

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton announced Saturday he would extend the U.S. nuclear test ban until September 1994 if other nations also refrained from exploding nuclear devices.

Extending the test ban established by Congress in September 1992 would put the United States in a stronger position to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty, the president said.

"Additional nuclear tests could help us prepare for a test ban and provide for some additional improvements in safety and reliability," Mr. Clinton said in his Saturday morning radio address.

"However, the price we would pay in conducting those tests now by undercutting our own non-proliferation goals and ensuring that other nations would resume testing outweighs these benefits."

Mr. Clinton said that if any tests are conducted by the other nuclear powers — France, China, Russia and Britain — then "I will direct the Department of Energy to prepare to conduct additional tests while seeking approval to do so from Congress."

Mr. Clinton made the announcement in advance of a July 7-9 visit to Japan, the only nation to feel the brunt of a nuclear attack — the two bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by U.S. bombers near the end of World War II.

Congress had said it would allow 15 tests between July 1993 and 1996, but directed the president to negotiate a test ban treaty



Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman (centre), surrounded by followers, Friday leaves the Abu Bakr Mosque in Brooklyn, New York, to surrender to U.S. immigration authorities (AFP photo)

Fayoum judge orders arrest of blind cleric detained in New York

Combined Agency dispatches

AN EGYPTIAN judge Saturday ordered the arrest of militant preacher Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who was detained in New York Friday for questioning about possible violation of U.S. immigration laws.

The judge, Ahmad Izzat Ashmawi, has been trying Sheikh Abdul Rahman in absentia on charges of attempting to murder two policemen and inciting violence during a protest in 1989 outside a mosque in Fayoum, an oasis town 90 kilometres south-west of Cairo.

A few hours after Judge Ashmawi made the request, Foreign Minister Amr Musa met with the American ambassador to Cairo amid speculation that Egypt was making an official request to extradite the sheikh.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman said there is an extradition treaty between Egypt and the United States which dates back to the 19th century. She refused any comment on whether any extradition request had been made.

The blind sheikh is said to be the spiritual leader of those arrested in connection with the explosion at the World Trade Centre in New York on Feb. 26 but the U.S. Justice Department has said the only charges against him will be for immigration offences.

Out of the 48 other defendants in the case in Egypt, many are also being tried in their absence and even some of those attending the trial have not been in custody.

Mr. Ashmawi told a court hearing on Saturday: "In the case of Omar Abdul Rahman and

others, the court has decided to arrest the defendants who are present... and has decided to arrest the defendants abroad and keep them in prison."

It was not immediately clear whether the decision would lead to an Egyptian request for Sheikh Abdul Rahman's extradition from the United States, where he has lived since 1990.

Mr. Ashmawi said he was adjourning the case until the court decided on a defence petition that he be replaced as judge for "animosity towards the Islamic movement."

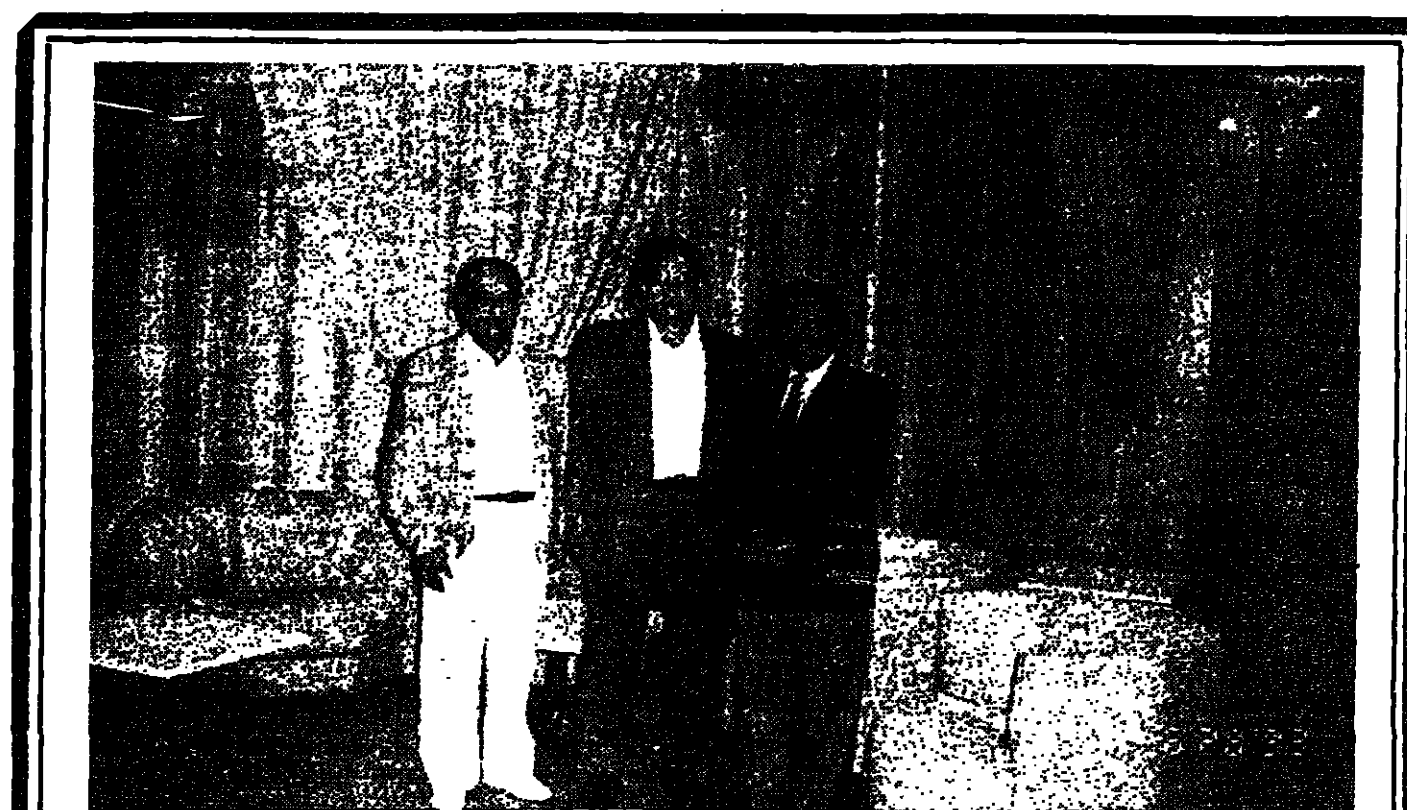
A spokesman for the Arab-American community in the United States, Mohammad Mehdi, said the detention of Sheikh Abdul Rahman in New York could easily set off violent demonstrations throughout the United States and the rest of the world.

But two of the sheikh's lawyers in Egypt, Adel Aymouni and Saad Hasaballah, dismissed this. "American interests are safe. No American targets will be hit. Nothing will happen to Americans or American interests in Egypt," Mr. Aymouni told Reuters.

"Sheikh Omar was detained for questioning. They have not hurt him or sentenced him to death for there to be violent reactions," he added.

The U.S. embassy in Cairo said it had received no specific threats, either to the embassy or to the American community, but it was checking reports that militant preachers had predicted a worldwide bombing campaign to avenge the arrest.

(Continued on page 3)



THE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN HEART SURGEON, DR. W. DUDLEY JOHNSON, HEAD OF THE MILWAUKEE HEART SURGERY ASSOCIATES IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A., HAS ARRIVED IN AMMAN.

DR. JOHNSON IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS CAREER AS A CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS SURGEON. IN 1968 HE DESCRIBED THE OPERATION THAT MADE ALL CORONARY ARTERIES BYPASS POSSIBLE. HE IS KNOWN FOR HIS KNOW-HOW IN THE DIFFICULT CASES WHICH OTHER SURGEONS ARE UNABLE TO HANDLE. DR. JOHNSON LATER DEVELOPED A TECHNIQUE TO REMOVE EXTENSIVE PLAQUES (CHOLESTEROL) FROM LONG SEGMENTS OF CORONARIES AND THEN RECONSTRUCT THE ARTERIES. DR. JOHNSON WILL TOUR ALL OVER JORDAN. HE WILL PAY A VISIT TO THE HEART CENTER AT THE HUSSEIN MEDICAL CITY IN AMMAN.

Hotel fire aimed at translator of 'Satanic Verses'

Turkish premier appeals for calm after 35 killed in protest

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller Saturday appealed for calm after 35 people were killed and 60 injured in a hotel fire set by Muslim fundamentalists in the eastern town of Sivas.

Ms. Ciller, speaking after an emergency cabinet meeting, said order had been restored in the town by security forces following Friday's unrest in which fundamentalists attacked the hotel where a controversial satirist and translator of the works of Salman Rushdie was staying.

"All necessary measures have been taken. The state is present in Sivas," she said Saturday morning. "Public order is under control."

Ms. Ciller said that Deputy Premier Erdal Inonu and army chief General Dogan Gures were to go to the town Saturday.

Those who died were staying at the Madimak Hotel, which was surrounded by a crowd of several thousand protesting the presence of a cultural festival of satirist Aziz Nesin, who has translated and published large extracts of Mr. Rushdie's controversial "The Satanic Verses" in a left-wing newspaper.

The 78-year-old Nesin, who is also a novelist and playwright, is alleged to have made blasphemous remarks about Islam in a speech on Thursday.

He was rescued by firemen from the burning hotel and taken

to safety in Ankara, according to Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu.

Deputy town prefect Sukru Tutuncu said Mr. Nesin suffered a slight head injury.

Ms. Ciller, who had earlier announced a two-day curfew in the town of 800,000, later refused to say how long special security measures would last.

Mr. Gazioglu, who went to the city with security police chief Yilmaz Ergun, said the fire was started by an unidentified fundamentalist demonstrator from among a crowd of about 10,000 who gathered outside the hotel after Friday prayers.

But he said it was Mr. Nesin's "provocative statements which were humiliating to the Turkish people" which had sparked the trouble.

Protesters said Mr. Nesin had made blasphemous remarks on Thursday when he said he did "not recognise Mohammad as a prophet" and had doubts about the origin of the Koran.

Many of the dead, most of whom died of smoke inhalation, were authors, poets and publishers attending the festival, officials said.

Turkish newspapers said Mr. Nesin had said the "reign of the Koran was over" in his speech. Aydinlik said it had appealed to authorities in vain on Friday to take measures against a possible attack on Mr. Nesin, a prize-winning satirist and an outspoken

critic of fundamentalism.

"The state has encouraged the attackers," it said. "The bill for 50 years of concessions against reactionism was paid with the lives of the (the dead)."

Aydinlik offices in Istanbul and the southeastern city of Diyarbakir were attacked and wrecked by fundamentalist protesters in May and June after the excerpts were published.

In London, Mr. Rushdie deplored the violence in Turkey.

But the Indian-born author also bitterly denounced Mr. Nesin for having published extracts from "The Satanic Verses."

Mr. Rushdie, who faces an Iranian-ordered death threat over the book, said Mr. Nesin had published extracts "without my permission and against my wishes."

He said that "within the past 24 hours" he had refused Mr. Nesin's request to publish the novel in full in Turkey.

"I would consider his newspaper's publication to be an act of piracy and a breach of copyright. And while I of course abhor the violence that has resulted, I have not been involved in Mr. Nesin's actions," an emotional Rushdie told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio.

"Mr. Nesin and his friends have used my work for their own purposes," Mr. Rushdie said.

"The idea that human beings have died because of this form of cynicism is horrifying."



The group of 14 people — 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis — accused of plotting to kill former U.S. President George Bush, behind bars inside Kuwait's state security court as their trial resumed Saturday (AFP photo)

Iraqis deny role in 'Bush plot'

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Four Iraqis accused in Kuwait of involvement in a plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush on Saturday again denied they played any part.

But they told the state security court they had seen two pistols and an AK-47 assault rifle in the possession of others among the total 14 defendants on trial.

Two of the accused, Jabir Nasser Zayer Inad, 43, and Ali Khudair Badia Abid, who gave his age as 73, said they had been beaten by police during their detention prior to the trial.

The defendants were cross examined by Judge Salah Al Fahd on the fourth day of a trial of 11 Iraqis and three Kuwaitis charged with involvement in an alleged plot to kill Mr. Bush during a visit to the emirate in April.

Iraq has denied any role in the alleged plot. But the United States last Sunday launched a missile attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad in retaliation, killing six civilians.

Mr. Inad told the court: "I was beaten but it left no marks." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Abid said he had been hit by police shortly after he was arrested. Earlier in his testimony he denied that he was beaten.

Mr. Abid, Mr. Inad and two other defendants Hadi Aouadh Al Shammari, 42, and Dhedan Ateyah Al Khaldi, 38, all said they had seen pistols, an AK-47 rifle and explosives in the two vehicles carrying them from Iraq to Kuwait on the eve of Mr. Bush's visit.

Two of the two accused, Raad Al Assadi, 33, and Wali Abud

Hadi Al Ghazali, 36, have admitted involvement in the alleged plot. The rest deny any part in it.

Kuwaiti police say most of the 14 drove across the frontier on April 12 in two vehicles, one of which was rigged with 80 kilograms of explosives, carrying 13 cases of illicit whiskey for sale in Kuwait along with weapons and other explosives.

The police say they were on alert after a tip off from sources in Iraq and arrested the group before they were able to put the alleged plan into action.

In Saturday's testimony, Mr. Abid recanted an earlier statement to interrogators that he had smuggled drugs into Kuwait from Iraq.

"I didn't know what I was saying, because I hadn't eaten for three days and I was beaten," he told the court. He said he was 73 years old, but court papers listed his age as 65.

He said Kuwaiti policemen kicked him in the stomach and slammed him against a large piece of metal shortly after he was arrested. He admitted entering Kuwait illegally with the other defendants, but he said he just wanted to borrow money from in-laws living in Kuwait.

Mr. Abid was one of four Iraqi defendants who testified Saturday that they had slipped into Iraq on various personal missions, like borrowing money or collecting an old debt. One said he wanted to see his Kuwait wife and their four children.

All 11 Iraqi defendants and one Kuwaiti face death by hanging if convicted of conspiring to kill Mr. Bush. Two other Kuwaitis, who are accused of trying to hide the

other defendants, face a maximum sentence of five years in prison if convicted.

The U.S. strike on Baghdad has not been mentioned at the trial, which is being conducted without a jury. Kuwaiti lawyers appointed to defend the accused men have said they consider the missile attack and the trial to be separate issues.

Human rights groups, already concerned that anti-Iraq sentiments in Kuwait could prevent a fair trial, say the American attack on Baghdad further jeopardised the defendants' rights.

Amnesty International said Friday that any presumption of innocence for the defendants has been undermined by U.S. assertions of compelling evidence of a high-level Iraqi plot to assassinate Mr. Bush.

The London-based human rights organisation called for Kuwait to restart the trial and to guarantee the defendants full recourse to legal advice.

Mijbel Al Rashgan, the defence attorney for the only man who has pleaded guilty, said he does not agree that a new trial is necessary.

Mr. Rashgan told a reporter Saturday that the court would not be affected by U.S. officials' statements.

Mr. Rashgan represents Wali Al Ghazali, a 36-year-old nurse who told the court earlier that Iraqi intelligence agents had showed him how to detonate the car-bomb. If that failed, Mr. Ghazali said, he had an explosives-packed belt and was supposed to detonate it to kill Mr. Bush in a suicide attack.

Hummadi: U.S. should appeal for oilman's release

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi has said the United States should appeal to Baghdad for the release of an Oklahoma oilman, jailed for alleged illegal entry into Iraq.

Speaking in a television interview, the minister did not promise that Kenneth Beatty, of Mustang, definitely would be freed if such an appeal was made. But he indicated that given his poor health, he might be.

"...If it is a human case the United States should make the first move," Mr. Hummadi told the London-based World Television Network (WTN), which made the interview available to other reporters.

"They should make a human move so that we can reply with a human move from our own side," he said.

It was the most positive comment from Iraq on the prospect of Mr. Beatty's release.

Mr. Beatty, head of exploration operations for the California-based Santa Fe Oil Company, was arrested April 25 when he strayed across the border after checking an oil well in northern Kuwait.

On May 3, a Baghdad court sentenced him to eight years in prison for trespassing.

Mr. Beatty, 45, has a heart problem. His health and conditions of confinement are being monitored by Polish diplomats and the International Red Cross, who are allowed occasional visits to the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad where he is being held.

U.S. officials have said they did not believe the weekend American missile attack on Baghdad will stall their efforts to free Mr. Beatty.

The Iraqi minister made no linkage between Mr. Beatty's imprisonment and the attack.

Mr. Hummadi did not say at what level the appeal should be made, or give any other elaboration.

Appeals to President Saddam Hussein for the release of other foreign prisoners have gone unanswered. But Mr. Beatty's case is

different, because of his poor health.

Mr. Beatty is one of at least nine foreigners — but the only American — arrested over the past year by Iraq's border police for trespassing. The others have received similar prison sentences.

The French Foreign Ministry said Friday that a French technician has been arrested in Iraq and sentenced to eight years in prison. Spokesman Richard Duque gave no information on the circumstances of the arrest or sentencing of Jean-Luc Barriere, 25.

Radio France Internationale reported earlier this week that Mr. Barriere, who was working in Kuwait, was arrested June 18 after crossing into Iraq, apparently by mistake.

There was no word about the Frenchman from Baghdad.

Sweden, which has three citizens in jail in Iraq, announced last week it was sending more humanitarian aid to Iraq, leading to speculation that Iraq is using the growing number of foreign "trespassers" as bargaining chips.

A British diplomat in Baghdad said to visit Mr. Barriere in prison on Thursday and found him "in good health," diplomatic sources in Paris said.

The U.S. State Department has expressed concern about Mr. Beatty following Sunday's cruise missile attack on Iraq's intelligence headquarters.

Mr. Hummadi said three Britons held in Iraq "are in good condition."

He said Britain should also make a "human move and we will be able to be in a situation to discuss what we can do about them."

Paul Ride, 33, Michael Wainwright, 42, and Simon Dunn, 23, have been convicted of illegal entry and are being held at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Mr. Ride and Mr. Wainwright were sentenced in 1992 to seven years and 10 years in prison. Mr. Dunn, who was arrested in June, was sentenced to eight years.

On Monday two British diplomats visited the men at the Abu Ghraib prison.

Rebels kill 16 policemen in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Separatist rebel Kurds, stepping up their attacks on Turkish targets since the collapse of a ceasefire, have killed 16 paramilitary gendarmes in a raid on a military post in southeastern Turkey, officials said Saturday.

Guerillas of the outlawed Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) attacked the gendarmes Friday night near the town of Dargecit. They used weapons, security officials in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir said.

They said 25 other gendarmes were wounded in the attack. Local reporters say troops which began a search operation to hunt the attackers have killed at least eight PKK rebels. But no official confirmation is available on the PKK's losses.

Security sources said rebels attacked the eastern town of Igdir, close to the Iranian and Nakhichevan borders, on Friday.

They said casualties in the attack had not been determined yet as telephone lines to the town have been cut off since the raid started at 10 p.m. (1900 GMT).

Additional troops were sent to the town.

In another incident Friday, Kurdish rebels killed a village guard in Uludere town.

A civilian was shot dead on the same day by unidentified gunmen in the southeastern town of Cizre, officials said.

More than 118 people, including 62 PKK rebels and 38 soldiers, were reported killed in incidents earlier this week.

In late May, PKK guerrillas broke a unilateral ceasefire declared in March by Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the group, killing 33 unarmed Turkish soldiers in a bus ambush.

Since then, Turkish army reinforcements have been building up in the troubled southeast and east where more than half of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds live.

Ex-communist warlord meets Rabbani

KABUL (Agencies) — General Abdul Rashid Dostum, head of the former pro-communist Uzbek militia faction, flew into Kabul Saturday for talks with Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Gen. Dostum, who is making his first visit to the capital since a combined Uzbek-Mujahideen force entered Kabul in April 1992, met Mr. Rabbani in the heavily guarded presidential palace.

"I have no statement for the time being," said Mr. Rabbani as he left the palace after 90 minutes of discussion with Gen. Dostum.

Also present at the talks, which an aide described as "introductory," were Kabul Mayor Fazl Kareem Aimaq and the head of the National Security Department, Gen. Fahim.

According to presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad, Gen. Dostum's visit has no political significance, but "is a normal phenomenon" much like the arrival of any other governor or Afghan dignitary.

However, Mr. Morad added: "Dostum's coming is connected with strengthening relationships between the centre and the provinces, and paving the way to solving remaining problems and misunderstandings."

Gen. Dostum holds the four-star rank of general of the army and is the head of his own political front, the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, which dominates several of the country's northern provinces.

The government has been unable to maintain control over areas outside Kabul which are controlled by various factional leaders and former pro-communist groups like the Uzbeks, who are based in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Gen. Dostum flew to Kabul from his virtually independent power base in Mazar-e-Sharif with an escort of five military planes and an entourage of more than 60 generals and Muslim clerics.

"I received an invitation from President Rabbani," a smiling Dostum said as he sat down for talks with Mr. Rabbani.

Gen. Dostum's defection from the former communist President Najibullah precipitated the fall of Kabul to the guerrillas in April 1992. He said his call on the head of the 15-month-old Islamic state

followed the settlement of outstanding problems.

"For a long time some of my northern forces staff here have had some difficulties," the stocky Uzbek general said in a brief interview. "We have solved these problems."

He declined to give details.

Gen. Dostum has maintained a military force in Kabul but insists he has remained neutral throughout the months of bitter factional fighting among the former guerrilla allies since they came to power.

Western diplomats said Gen. Dostum has been pressing for official recognition in the Islamic guerrilla government and some cabinet posts. These were denied him when the Mujahideen forces announced their cabinet in May after weeks of wrangling.

Diplomats say Gen. Dostum does not want a cabinet post but may ask Mr. Rabbani to allocate one or two ministries to his aides.

Gen. Dostum's force — the single most powerful in Afghanistan — is backed by numerous fighter jets and huge amounts of artillery left after the Soviet pull-out in 1989.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies nuclear links with Switzerland

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Saturday rejected an Israeli newspaper report charging that Switzerland had become over the last year a main supplier for Iran's nuclear weapons programme. The daily Maariv alleged last week that at least 10 Swiss companies had exploited loopholes in Swiss legislation and exported to Iran equipment which could be used to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. "Such accusations are baseless and are aimed at discouraging Switzerland from doing business with Iran," said the Iranian ambassador in Switzerland, Mohammad Reza Alborzi. Iran has not purchased any weapons from Switzerland in years and is opposed to production of weapons of mass destruction, he told the Iranian news agency IRNA. Mr. Alborzi accused the United States and Israel of "trying to create tension" between Iran and its trade partners in the industrial world. Switzerland last week denied Maariv's allegations and said it fully complied with decisions by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) banning the export of dual-use machine tools which can serve military purposes.

Westland wins \$385m contract damages from Arabs

LONDON (AFP) — Helicopter group Westland has been awarded \$385 million damages in a legal dispute with Arab partners dating back to 1980, the company announced Friday. The award, which is subject to possible court appeals or other legal proceedings, was made by a Geneva-based arbitration tribunal. The action was taken against the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), the Arab British Helicopter Company and Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Westland, based at Yeovil, Somerset, originally initiated legal action against the AOI for alleged breach of contract. It had set up a joint venture with its Arab partners in 1978 to make 250 Lynx helicopters. "Egypt left the AOI in 1980 when it signed the Camp David accord with Israel and it appropriated the AOI's assets, which were in Egypt," a Westland spokesman said. "The whole contract collapsed and that was when we instituted proceedings," he added. The tribunal ruled in June 1991 that AOI was liable to Westland for damages for breach of the contract, that the three states were also liable and that Westland had no responsibility for the breach.

U.S. agency grants Ethiopia \$200m

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) said Friday it was granting Ethiopia \$200 million to fund development projects in a country that was once the former Soviet Union's model pupil. USAID stressed in a statement, announcing the grant that the aid was dependent on Ethiopia maintaining a good human rights record and adhering to economic reforms. "Ethiopia's progress in observing human rights, advancing democratic governance and adopting liberal economic policies are critical to future aid support," it said. Washington has already given Ethiopia \$198 million towards reconstruction after years of war between government troops and rebels shattered the country's economy. The grant, to be disbursed over three years, would fund agriculture and transport sectors to beef up productivity and food-for-work programmes such as soil and water conservation. Almost half the aid would be used as balance-of-payment support for the poor East African country driven to near collapse by hardline Marxist policies of dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam who was toppled by rebels in 1991. Ethiopia's transitional government, composed of former guerrillas and civilians, opened up the economy after assuming power and has won wide international support.

U.S. soldier convicted of negligent homicide

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado (AFP) — A U.S. soldier was convicted of negligent homicide in a court martial following the death of a Somali civilian during a relief operation. Specialist James Morris, 26, was convicted Thursday of fatally shooting Ahmad Asir in the back on Feb. 14. Mr. Morris was reduced in rank, fined \$450 and banned from leaving the base for three months. He was found innocent of involuntary manslaughter, a more severe charge. Mr. Morris was shipped to Somalia in January as part of the 98th Military Police Company during Operation Restore Hope. On the day of the incident Mr. Morris and two others were sent to a village in search of gunmen who had stolen weapons. Two men fled from the U.S. troops and Mr. Morris said he fired a warning shot low and to the left of Asir, who was turning right. "My shot could not possibly have hit Mr. Asir," said Mr. Morris. The bullet that killed Asir was never found and experts failed to agree on whether Asir was hit in the front or the back.

U.S. urges against visas for Libyan athletes

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department has recommended that 79 Libyan athletes not be allowed into the United States for the World University Games under sanctions imposed after the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. U.S. officials said Friday. "We felt this would not have been consistent for these people to come to these games," the official said, referring to the World University Games to be held in Buffalo, New York, next week. "We feel that Libya is a country whose support for international terrorism is well known which has been made a matter of record by the United Nations Security Council," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Because of economic sanctions imposed against Libya in 1986 and after the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, the Libyan government may not spend money in the United States without a licence from the Treasury Department. The State Department has recommended against granting such a licence to the Libyan athletes, and without the licence, no U.S. visas can be granted.

Rafsanjani to visit Turkey

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will travel to Turkey on Tuesday to attend a regional summit meeting. Iran's IRNA news agency said Saturday. The head of state of the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organisation, which groups Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan — will meet in Istanbul on Wednesday, IRNA said. It would be Mr. Rafsanjani's first foreign trip since he won a second four-year term in presidential elections last month. The 58-year-old cleric last visited Turkey in 1991.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Revue d'enfants
17:40 Les Cils de Fort Boyard
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Journal de L'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step By Step
21:10 The Trials of Life
22:00 News in English
22:30 French series

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:30 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:40 Dhuhr
16:20 'Asr
19:50 Maghreb
21:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637875
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623524, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675491

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min/Max. temp.
20 / 33
Aqaba 24 / 39
Deserts 17 / 35
Jordan Valley 23 / 38

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha 752405
Dr. Adnan Al Zughoul 898140
Dr. Mahmoud Amerci 888893
Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun 650881
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asuna pharmacy 637055
Naroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644045
Shmeisat pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Faysal Al Qadhi (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Mahmoud (—)
Khulafat pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police: IR 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overscas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 764110
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53250

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813613/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644201/18
Al-Khali Maternity, J. Amn. 642412/12
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/14
Shmeisani Hospital 649131
University Hospital 845485
Al-Munther Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mubasher 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)908560
Jbn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)949498

IRBID:
Princess Darna Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30	Bangkok (RJ)
07:15	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:30	Larnaca (RJ)
11:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:45	Athens (RJ)
14:30	Istanbul (RJ)
15:45	Riyadh (RJ)
16:30	Damascus, Cairo (RJ)
17:30	Jeddah (RJ)
18:30	Amman (RJ)
19:30	Amman (RJ)
20:30	Amman (RJ)
21:30	Amman (RJ)
22:30	Amman (RJ)
23:30	Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30	Bahrain (GF)
14:30	Moscow (SU)
15:30	Larnaca (CY)
16:30	Cairo (MS)
20:30	Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
07:45	Beirut (RJ)
08:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00	Rome (RJ)
11:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:50	Vietna (RJ)
13:45	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
14:30	Athens (RJ)
15:45	Istanbul (RJ)
16:30	Riyadh (RJ)
17:30	Damascus, Cairo (RJ)
18:30	Jeddah (RJ)
19:30	Amman (RJ)
20:30	Amman (RJ)
21:30	Amman (RJ)
22:30	Amman (RJ)
23:30	Amman (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:00	Larnaca (RJ)
08:00	Beirut, Rome (AZ)
14:30	Doha, Bahrain (GF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	360/200
Banana	440/240
Banana (Mukammal)	620 / 680
Beans	320 / 350
Cabbage	100 / 50
Cauliflower	280/220
Cherry (red)	180 / 100
Cucumber (large)	100 / 50
Cucumbers (small)	170 / 50
Eggplant	700 / 500
Garlic	300/200
Grapes	380 / 480
Lemon	150 / 100
Marrow (large)	250 / 200
Mint	250 / 200
Onion	60/50
Orange	140 / 70
Peas	600/500
Pepper (hot)	340 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 220
Potato	230 / 150
Tomato	130 / 60
Watermelon	240/150
Watermelon	140/80

NEWS IN BRIEF

Commission on Jerusalem Affairs reorganised

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday reorganising the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs. The commission will be headed by Akram Zu'aitir and will include as members Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan, Chief Islamic Justice Noah Salman, the King's Advisor on Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, former Awqaf minister Raef Najim, Al Al Bait University President Adnan Al Bakhit, Roman Catholic Bishop Salim Al Sayegh, Anglican Bishop Samir Qafity and Director of the Middle East Council of Churches office Salim Khaliliya who will represent the Greek Orthodox community.

Cabinet approves retirement of NAF chief

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved the retirement of Director General of the National Aid Fund (NAF) Mansour Al Utom upon his request. The decision, which becomes effective July 20, was taken to allow Mr. Utom to dedicate his time to teaching. Saturday the cabinet also approved licensing a weekly newspaper to be published by Al Yaqatha (Awakening) Party, which is headed by Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh. The newspaper, to be called Al Yaqatha, was licensed in accordance with Articles 19 and 20 of the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

Primary nursing care seminar starts

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on primary nursing care started Saturday at Al Bashir Hospital's Institute of Specialised Nursing. A total of 34 nursing teachers from various Ministry of Education schools are taking part in the seminar which will last one week. They will receive lectures on the concepts and principles of primary health care and the role of nurses in following economic policies of the Ministry of Health.

International family planning group meets in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on administrative development organised by the International Federation of Family Planning started in Amman Saturday. Representatives of family planning societies from 24 countries are participating in the week-long seminar. President of the Jordanian Family Planning and Protection Society Anwar Al Hadid delivered an address at the opening of the seminar and said administrative development is the focal point of comprehensive development, especially in Arab societies. Mr. Hadid said any effort exercised to achieve administrative development should always target the human element to enable it to develop its skills. Efforts exerted by the International Federation of Family Planning have a key role in developing work processes and performance of workers and volunteers in family planning societies, he said. Participants in the seminar will discuss issues related to the international federation's administration measures, managing non-profit organisations, expenditures and other issues.

Jordan to display produce in Yorkshire

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the British Royal Fair which will open Monday in Yorkshire. The Jordanian pavilion at the fair will include samples of agricultural produce to familiarise visitors with development achieved by Jordan in the agricultural sector. Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal will leave today (Sunday) for London to attend the opening ceremony of the fair.

Jordan boasts 651 cooperatives

AMMAN (Petra) — At present there are 651 cooperative societies grouping 60,000 members working on development projects in the Kingdom, mainly in the agricultural fields, according to Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Jamal Al Bedour. In a statement Saturday marking International Cooperatives Day, Dr. Bedour said the JCO also supervises the work of 659 cooperative societies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Of those in Jordan there are 44 women's cooperative groups that organise work for women, particularly in the rural regions, said Dr. Bedour. Cooperative societies in Jordan implement a large number of agricultural projects for the production of cereals, animal feed, vegetables and food industries. He said other societies specialise in tourism, handicrafts and health work.

Municipality officials to head for conferences

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality will participate in the Second Conference of World Capitals on Protecting Childhood, due to open in Mexico City Monday. The municipality's delegation to the conference will include Mayor Mohammad Al Bashir and municipality's council member Ghalib Abu Jaber. The two-day conference will resume discussion of issues raised at the first conference convened in Dhakar in 1990. The municipality will also take part in the Seventh General Conference of the Islamic Capitals and Cities Organisation to be held in Ankara July 5-10. Jordan's delegation to the conference comprises Municipal Council member Raef Najim, Municipality Secretary Sultan Khleifar, Hussein Al Madani, Ahmad Al Armouti and Kamel Shabsough. The delegation will also participate in a seminar on ways of curbing car accidents, to be held on the sidelines of the conference.

UNEP to hold environment seminars in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan participated in a seminar on the effect of development projects on the environment, held in Turkey last week. Director of the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Saleh Al Sharaa, who represented Jordan at the seminar, said he reached an agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Western Asia Office on holding two seminars on the environment in Jordan with financial support from the programme. Dr. Sharaa said Jordan's experience in assessing the environmental effects of development projects was considered by the participants in the seminar as pioneering. The participants, he said, have stressed the need to link the development projects and their environmental effects.

Jordan to host meeting on raw materials

AMMAN (Petra) — An international conference on the use of locally produced raw and primary materials will be held in September, with several working papers on the extraction of raw materials in Jordan among the topics to be reviewed. The announcement was made by Hossni Abu Ghaida, president of the announcement was made by Hossni Abu Ghaida, president of the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) and Rawhi Sharif, chairman of a committee preparing for the conference. At a recent press gathering at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, they said the three-day meeting will focus on the exploitation of primary materials and their contribution to and effect on socio-economic development in Jordan. In addition the recycling of used materials by local industries will be tackled by the participants from Arab and foreign countries, they added. Altogether, 38 working papers presented from at least 11 countries will be reviewed, with some outlining the participating countries' experiences and experiments, said Mr. Abu Ghaida. During the conference, which will be opened on Sept. 6, several local and international companies will organise an engineering exhibition displaying engineering equipment.

Civil servants start promotion courses

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Civil Service Commission Abdullah Ulayan Saturday opened at the Public Administration Institute a higher administration training programme for directors working in government departments. The course, designed for candidates for promotion, aims to prepare officials for leading positions in government offices. In an address delivered at the opening ceremony, Dr. Ulayan urged participants in the programme to make the most of its activities and to use it to its full advantage.

NHF surveys Qunyah village needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) teams have begun a survey of the Qunyah village in Mafrqa governorate to determine the basic needs of the local residents prior to designing related programmes and plans, said an NHF statement Saturday quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The survey aims at pinpointing the needs of the people in terms of social, health and educational services, as well as vaccination needs of mothers and children and economic requirements for development.

The Qunyah village, as well as 12 population settlements nearby, are to be surveyed, covering some 3,500 households.

The survey will be conducted by NHF staff employed at NHF health and social centres, helped by members of the community who were trained for the project, said the statement.

The NHF is conducting the survey under its Quality of Life Project. The Quality of Life Project, which was launched in 1991, benefited the village of Oreigra in southern Jordan, where a survey there led to the establishment of a local village development council to manage the project's activities.

Sixty families in Oreigra benefited from plots of land distributed to them by Her Majesty Queen Noor in September last year.

They each received a 1.5 dunums on which to build homes, cultivate vegetable gardens and raise domesticated animals to improve their living standards.

Minister urges farmers to plant low water-consuming trees

BAQAA (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal Saturday urged farmers to plant trees requiring small amounts of water, noting that Jordan's low annual rainfall groups it with the semi-arid countries of the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session of a training seminar on grafting and increasing fruit trees in semi-arid regions, the minister said the seminar would benefit Jordan's agricultural sector since it would turn out trained extension service staff to guide local farmers in methods of planting fruit trees that withstand dry and hot seasons and low water supply.

The three-day meeting is being held at the National Centre for Agriculture Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) and is organised in cooperation with the Arab League, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Islamic Development Bank.

NCARTT Director Mohammad Dweiri told the opening session that 90 per cent of the land in the Arab World is considered semi-arid and the irrigated part does not exceed four per cent of the total area of the region.

Crops that tolerate semi-arid regions, Dr. Dweiri said, include olive grapes, figs, pistachios, almonds wheat and barley.

Tests on Disi water encouraging

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Encouraged by the results of recent tests conducted on water from the Disi aquifers, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is hopeful that this ancient water source could sufficiently supply Amman and other densely populated regions of the country. WAJ Director General Qutaishat said Saturday, "We have been conducting an exploration and confirmation testing of the water source in the existing Disi aquifers for past six months and so far the tests have proved encouraging," he said.

The exploration project financed by the Overseas Development Agency of Britain aims at discovering more water resources for the Kingdom, which consumes more than 850 million cubic metres of water annually.

Mr. Qutaishat said in a statement to the Jordan Times.

It entails drilling deep bore holes and preparing dimensional models to determine long-term water output from the Disi basin, Mr. Qutaishat explained.

Should the results prove successful and the water found in abundance, WAJ will embark on feasibility studies, design and other essential steps to implement the project which could cost up to \$300 million, said Mr. Qutaishat.

The water situation in Jordan, he said, is critical and WAJ has to move ahead with plans to ensure sufficient water supplies for the increasing population.

Mr. Qutaishat was commenting on a statement by Water and Irrigation Minister, Bassam Kakish who was quoted Friday as saying that the Disi water project could supply Amman with water for 50 to 70 years.

The minister and Mr. Qutaishat both said that the studies and the tests on water pumped from the Disi basin could take up to the middle of 1994 to complete.

Both statements followed a visit to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali last Wednesday when he urged WAJ to ensure sufficient water supplies to all regions and to collect payments on overdue water bills to help finance WAJ projects.

The prime minister's visit followed repeated public complaints about water shortages which were attributed by the water ministry to excessive water consumption during summer and the increase in population.

Mr. Kakish said that some citizens were building huge water storage facilities and filling swimming pools, thus disrupting the water distribution programmes.



Bank staff learn to spot fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Bank and financial institution employees are learning to identify forgeries and counterfeit money at a five-day seminar opened Saturday by the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS).

Institute Dean Adib Haddad said the meeting aims at training the 22 participants to verify signatures and discover forged documents with the naked eye.

The participants will also be taught how to spot counterfeit banknotes, an essential skill in their line of work.

Dr. Haddad said lectures will also review means of preventing fraud by focusing attention on methods of forging documents and banknotes, identifying valid stamps on documents and recognising clients.

The five-day seminar, he added, was part of an overall programme adopted by the institute for 1993.

Dr. Haddad said the institute invited a Jordanian forgery and counterfeit expert, who has been working abroad, to the seminar.

According to Dr. Haddad, the institute plans to organise a similar seminar in Irbid next week.

Egyptian court orders arrest of cleric

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is also the spiritual leader of the outlawed Gamaa Al Islamiyah which has waged a year-long campaign to overthrow the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. More than 165 people, including three foreign tourists, have been killed since March 1992.

The government ordered the reopening of proceedings against Sheikh Abdul Rahman in April after he was acquitted in 1990 of charges of having organised a violent anti-government demonstration in 1989 during which a policeman was injured.

His supporters on trial in Fayoum were also acquitted. But the verdict was never ratified by military governor Atef Sedki, also prime minister, who ordered the reopening of the trial in April under emergency laws in effect since 1981.

The 55-year-old cleric had also issued a fatwa, religious decree, ordering the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat but he was acquitted in the case.

In the absence of any official reaction to the arrest of Sheikh Abdul Rahman in New York, the Egyptian press meanwhile denounced what they described as the farcical ineptitudes of the U.S. authorities.

U.S. federal agents hunting for Sheikh Abdul Rahman thought they had nabbed him outside the Abu Bakr mosque in Brooklyn.

New York, Thursday when they saw a man dressed like the cleric get into a van outside the building.

But when the suspect emerged it was clear he was not Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The government daily Al Gomhuriya compared the incident to the "adventures of James Bond" and described Sheikh Abdul Rahman as "Omar Bond".

The political analyst of the semi-official Al Ahran daily said U.S. efforts to arrest the cleric were an "outright mockery".

The daily Al Akhbar questioned U.S. credibility and said: "Could it be possible that they (United States) are afraid that he (Abdul Rahman) will talk and reveal everything that has been kept under wraps so far?"

According to recent articles published by the New York Times, U.S. intelligence services have had several contacts with the outlawed Gamaa Al Islamiyah.

The U.S. embassy in Cairo denied the reports. Sheikh Abdul Rahman turned himself in to agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) at his Brooklyn mosque Friday afternoon after nearly 24 hours of tense negotiations over terms of his surrender.

prison, was detained because he posed "a risk of flight and a potential danger for the community."

But authorities said he was only arrested for violating immigration laws and not in connection with any violent crime.

The INS spokesman said Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who was taken to a prison 120 kilometres north of New York City, would remain in custody pending a decision on a government effort to deport him.

The U.S. State Department shortly after Sheikh Abdul Rahman's arrest warned Americans travelling abroad of possible "strong reactions" to the detention in the Islamic World.

Arab-American community spokesman Dr. Mohammad Mehdi told Reuters the arrest could easily set off violent demonstrations both here and abroad.

"There could be spontaneous demonstrations because of this unjustifiable and thoughtless act on the part of the Justice Department," Mr. Mehdi said.

In Egypt, the Islamic group will increase violence and target Americans, the American embassy and possibly the American University in Cairo, Mr. Mehdi added.

Duke of Kent, Hogg praise relations with Jordan Crown Prince urges cultural progress

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Anglo-Jordanian Society Friday held its biennial banquet in the presence of the co-patrons of the society, Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath and their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent at the Berkeley Hotel in London.

The banquet was also attended by the Rt. Hon. Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, and the Jordanian ambassador in London, Fouad Ayoub.

In his address to the gathering, the Crown Prince emphasised the need for the recognition of cultural diversity and religious tolerance. He stressed that the situation in the former Yugoslavia has deteriorated tremendously since his last visit to Croatia in November 1992 and that there is now, more than ever, a stronger need for international pressure to seek an immediate solution to end the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

Referring to the recently held World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Prince Hassan called for progress in cultural rather than political spheres.

The Crown Prince paid tribute to Anglo-Jordanian relations and thanked the chairman and officers of the Anglo-Jordanian Society for their noble endeavours in promoting further cooperation and understanding.

Earlier, the Duke of Kent welcomed the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath and lauded Jordan and its people under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, and asked the Crown Prince to convey to King Hussein the sincere congratulations of the society on the occasion of His Majesty's fortieth anniversary on the throne which comes at a time when the United Kingdom was also celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's fortieth anniversary.

The Duke said he hoped that relations between the two kingdoms would continue to flourish, and wished every success to the Jordanian companies participating for the first time in the forthcoming Royal Show, where Jordanian agricultural products and irrigation technologies will be on display.

Mr. Hogg also gave a short address referring to Jordan as Britain's "oldest friend in the Middle East". He expressed the British government's appreciation of Jordan's important role in the region and hoped that the peace process, in which Jordan is playing an active role, will eventually lead to a settlement of old disputes in order to bring about peace and prosperity to that troubled region.

The banquet was attended by many senior British personalities including members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and various organisations and councils, as well as members of the society and their guests.

Montreal Fund approves \$2 m to help Jordan cut use of ozone-destroying material

AMMAN (J.T.) — Having approved last week Jordan's national strategy to reduce ozone-destroying materials in its industries, the Montreal Fund for the protection of the ozone layer agreed to provide the Kingdom with up to \$2 million to help it implement this project, said Asem Ghosheh, secretary general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Saturday.

Following his return from a fund meeting in Montreal, Mr. Ghosheh said Jordan will begin the project immediately after the formal conclusion of agreements on the fund's aid to Jordan.

Under the terms of the project Jordanian industries will gradually dispose of materials believed to have detrimental effects on the ozone layer, Mr. Ghosheh explained.

Jordan is a signatory to the 1987 Montreal Protocol and the Geneva Convention on the Protection of the Environment and the Ozone.

The Kingdom last November was elected a member of the Executive Council of the Asia seat in a committee implementing the Montreal Protocol.

Mr. Ghosheh said, at last week's meetings the executive committee also decided to allocate \$100,000 to Jordan's Department of Environment to help it promote its supervisory task in controlling pollution and allocated \$90,000 to finance the first stage of the Jordanian strategy, which involves gradual reduction of the use of harmful materials in air conditioning and refrigerating industries.

He said the Jordanian strategy will be implemented in close cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Mr. Ghosheh said the Jordanian delegation to the Montreal meeting called on the fund to finance the training of Jordanians on means of utilising modern technology to reduce the use of ozone-harming materials.

He said he held meetings with officials from the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme who attended the Montreal meeting, urging them to finance the training of Jordanian personnel in environmental protection measures and methods.

Mr. Ghosheh said the delegation included senior officials from the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Planning.

Tarawneh tours facilities in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Minister of Transport Salma Al Tarawneh Saturday met with Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Dureid Mahasneh and reviewed with him the corporation's achievements.

Later in the day, Mr. Tarawneh visited the Aqaba Region Authority where he met with its senior officials and discussed scopes of cooperation between the authority and the ministry's companies and firms.

The minister also inspected work on the Aqaba Ring Road and called for opening it quickly. He also visited the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport and was briefed by its Director General, Abdullah Ejbou, on its activities and financial situation.



Raymond Weil reaches to rank of Swiss watchmaking

WITHIN 16 years, Raymond Weil has reached the top rank of Swiss watchmaking — the result of its upscale strategy, its accurate assessment of the market, its choice of state-of-the-art manufacturing techniques and its innate feeling for human relations, combined with an unmatched sales network.

The figures illustrate the company's achievements: more than 600,000 watches sold last year in more than 70 countries (USA, Middle East, UK, Austria, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Latin America etc), on aircraft of some 30 airlines and in the world's major duty-free shops.

For the third consecutive year, Mr. Raymond Weil chairs the exhibitors' committee of the Basel Watch and Jewellery Fair, the world's most important watch-industry event.

In Jordan, Modern Watch Centre, Raymond's Weil Ambassador of goodwill, offers all the services needed in as much as the availability of watches and their relative after-sale-service are concerned.

MODERN WATCH CENTRE Jordan-Islamic Bank Building Shmeisani — Amman Tel: 699993

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rasan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshebeila Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by plastic artist Abeer Al Khatib at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Faxsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Reasonableness for all time

AT A time when the Iraqi regime itself declares that it has no intention to retaliate against the U.S. missile attack on Baghdad, it is mind-boggling to hear voices in Jordan questioning the Kingdom's policy towards Iraq's relations with the U.S. and the West generally. The prime minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, rightly told the leader of a group of protestors on Thursday that Jordan has been doing all it can to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and that no one should be trying to outbid the other in this regard. Even those among Jordanians who hold little sympathy for the Iraqi regime still have all the compassion in the world for their Iraqi brethren. But, regardless of their political leanings, Jordanians cannot outbid the Iraqis themselves in their feelings towards their tormentors. Iraq's deputy prime minister Tareq Aziz on Thursday told CNN television that his country wanted to mend fences with the U.S. and restore normal relations. Jordanians should not, therefore, demand that their government take unilateral decisions that will only cause more harm to Iraqis and Jordanians. This country cannot defy U.N. imposed sanctions even though the boycott hurts us badly. Jordan and the rest of the Arabs cannot afford the double standards of calling for implementation of U.N. resolutions against one country, namely Israel, and not observing other U.N. resolutions against another country, in this case Iraq.

Opposition leaders in this country cannot possibly believe that Jordan on its own can have that much influence on regional and world issues. To accuse the government of succumbing to the will of the U.S. and to demand that we pull out of the peace talks is naive at best. Those opposition leaders should remember that the Soviet Union, the ex-champion of Third World causes, is not a serious player in the Middle East political game any more. They should accept the reality of today's world: Iraq's capabilities have been damaged beyond recognition. Egypt is at peace with Israel, Syria is making daily overtures to the U.S. and seeking a peaceful settlement with the Jewish state.

Opposition in Jordan can use the democratic forum to say what they want, but they should remember, or at least take notice, that the Arab Nation is in terrible shape: It needs time and new energy to recover, not slogans and empty words. We of course do not for a moment doubt the intelligence and wisdom of our opposition leaders. They, however, underestimate the intelligence of our people and resort to unacceptable politicking for the sake of gaining popularity and a few more votes.

Jordan has chosen the path of peace and accommodation because there is no other option to achieve our national goals. Besides we have long opted to abide by international legitimacy, which in political terms translates into moderation, reasonableness and respect in relations with others.

These are times for sober, intelligent and wise decisions to be taken on the regional and international levels. Those voices who call for belligerency and jingoism can continue to sing their tune, but cannot impose their values on the rest of us.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

CONTRARY TO expectations, the Americans have failed to play a constructive role in the 10th Arab Israeli round of negotiations and thus disappointed everyone, said Al Dustour daily Saturday. The paper said that Washington had failed to shoulder its responsibility and to honour its commitment to giving momentum to the peace process. It was quite clear from the beginning of the 10th round that Israel's intransigent position concerning autonomy rule for the Palestinians constituted the main stumbling block in the peace efforts, said the daily. It was also clear that the Israelis were aiming to liquidate the Palestinian problem and perpetuate their occupation of the Palestinian land, but the Americans failed to take any step that might end this stubborn attitude and pave the way for a settlement, added the daily. Indeed, the U.S. document, which was presented to the Israelis and the Palestinians at the end of the 10th round, was tantamount to a declaration of failure of the 10th round and a clear sign that the U.S. was planning to embark on a new stage of exercising pressure to get concessions from the Palestinians rather than the Israelis, charged the paper. This document excluded the status of Jerusalem from the negotiations and ignored the problem of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the paper pointed out. It said that the negotiations, which are now facing a deadlock, can by no means be heading for progress unless Israel ends its intransigence and Washington fulfill its commitments.

WE DO not believe that Third World nations will express regret over the United Nations financial bankruptcy in the wake of its political bankruptcy because it had been transformed into a tool in the hand of the American imperialism, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The United Nations, said Tareq Masarweh, has been spending on military adventures led by the United States and failing to meet the requirements of its relief operations. The military adventure in Somalia cost the United Nations more than a billion dollars while that total amount spent on providing relief supplies to the people of Somalia did not exceed \$70 million when all estimates put the required sum at \$450 million needed to deal with hunger in the embattled nation, continued the writer. Millions are being spent on the U.N. troops in South Lebanon, but these peace keepers are satisfied with looking on while Israel maintains its continued attacks on the civilian population, he added.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Government is serious about eliminating absolute poverty

The special committee, appointed by the ex-prime minister, finalised the latest survey on poverty in Jordan and submitted its report. It has found that the line of poverty covers around 21.3 per cent of the population, against 20.1 per cent in 1991. It also determined that the ratio of the absolutely poor, out of those classified as poor, rose to 6.5 per cent, against 4.9 per cent in 1991.

The above findings suggest that an additional 1.2 per cent of the Jordanian families fell below the line of poverty and joined the poor over the past two years and that 1.7 per cent of the families which were poor in 1991 descended into the category of the absolutely poor within the same period of time.

At the outset, we should point out that the accuracy of sampling could not reach the point where 1.2 per cent can be significant and meaningful. The increase by 1.2 per cent of the number of poor could be attributed to errors and omissions in extrapolating the result of the samples to cover the whole population. On the other hand, we should take into account that some surveyed families did not declare all their sources of income or understated their income, for obvious reasons. However, we shall assume that the survey was accurate and representative, and that raising the line of poverty from the level of JD 108 in 1991 to JD 119 in 1993 is justified; yet some elaboration is in order.

The survey was conducted during the first quarter of 1993 before the outgoing government decided to increase regular salaries and pension payments by JD 15 to JD 30 a month. The number which benefited from this increase is estimated to be over 50 per cent of all families. If the results of the survey were adjusted to reflect this significant increase in the income of many poor families, the portion of the families classified as poor may decline to between 16 and 18 per cent, which is not only better than the situation in 1991, but also better than the situation in

1987, i.e., before the economic crisis and the devaluation of the dinar.

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Mohammad Al Ssour supervised all three surveys on poverty conducted in 1987, 1991, and 1993, which guaranteed consistency in methodology and made comparison possible. It would be good if the government asked him to repeat the survey once every two or three years.

Dr. Ssour was generous in determining the limit of poverty line at JD 119 a month per family of 6.8 members, which is equal to JD 17.5 per capita per month; or JD 210 per year. This is nine times higher than the limit of poverty in China, which is \$35 per capita per year. Of course an adjustment to take the variation in purchasing power parity (PPP) may narrow the difference, but it remains large.

Some political activists made noise about poverty, simply to prove their credentials as populists and leftists and to embarrass the government and perhaps replace it, but no practical solutions were offered by those activists.

Therefore, we suggest that a law should be enacted to fight poverty, especially absolute poverty. The law should force the government to guarantee a minimum income, sufficient to take families above the line of absolute poverty, which means supplementing the monthly income of 6.6 per cent of the families, to be no less than JD 61 a month, as determined by the survey. The law to eliminate absolute poverty can be part of a package of measures including the cancellation of subsidies and the pricing of government goods and services (except education and health) in a way to recover the actual cost. The savings may be more than enough to finance the income supplementation and the budget will be used to redistribute income in favour of the poor.

The appointment of Dr. Mohammad Ssour as minister of social development in the new government of Dr. Majali is a signal that it is serious about dealing with the problem of poverty.

Muslim forces face two-way squeeze in Bosnia

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

SARAJEVO — Muslim forces battling for territory in central Bosnia are facing a double squeeze as their former Croat allies forge new alliances with their old enemy, the Serbs. United Nations officials believe Muslim forces in the northern "Magaj" finger, a slender salient of Muslim-held territory jutting into land conquered by the Serbs, now face both Croat and Serb units almost in the same trenches, a U.N. officer said.

Serb tanks have been sighted near Zepce, a bitterly contested town near Magaj, and troops of the Bosnian Serb army have been seen heading for Magaj where the Muslim-led Bosnian army is under attack.

"That indicates there is collusion between the Bosnian Serb army and the HVO (Bosnian Croat Forces)," U.N. protection force spokesman Major Pepe Gallegos said.

A Bosnian army commander, Fuad Hasanovic, agreed. "Near Magaj, Croats gave up some of their positions to the Chetniks (Serbs)," he said.

The Bosnian Serbs and a senior HVO commander have denied their forces are collaborating, but the United Nations said there was too much evidence to ignore.

In Kiseljick, an HVO stronghold near Sarajevo, a U.N. military spokeswoman said Serb tanks had been seen on the streets, by one account with



HVO troops hitching rides on the trucks.

Brigadier Vere Hayes, chief of staff at the U.N.'s Bosnia Command, said that on June 22 he witnessed an HVO brigade commander negotiate the passage through a Serb checkpoint of up to 20 coaches carrying 800 men of military age.

U.N. sources said Bosnian Croat soldiers had been treated at a Serb hospital near Sarajevo.

Reports of Serb and Croat alliances have multiplied since the two parties agreed that Bosnia should be carved into three ethnic mini-states, a proposal which Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic has rejected as tantamount to genocide.

In the most public demonstra-

tion of cooperation, HVO troops who fled the central Bosnian town of Travnik when it fell to the Muslims on June 8 crossed Serb lines and later returned to fight again.

The capture of Travnik was one of the Bosnian army's most conspicuous successes against the HVO in the battle for territory in central Bosnia before any political solution to the 15-month-old war.

The main weakness of the Bosnian army has always been its shortage of heavy weapons as a result of the international arms embargo on former Yugoslavia. What weapons it has procured in the arms bazaars of Europe and the Middle East are heavily "taxed" by the HVO, who exact

a large share of the shipments as they pass through Croat-held territory on their way from the coast to central Bosnia.

In return, the better-armed HVO says it is heavily outnumbered by the Muslims in central Bosnia.

HVO spokesman Veso Vigar put the imbalance at four to one in favour of the Muslims, accusing UNPROFOR of turning a blind eye to daily reinforcements reaching the Bosnian army from Sarajevo.

U.N. sources see the Muslim-led army as better organised, with proper command and control structure and clearer political commitment to the defence of their state.

By contrast the HVO is less committed, as the Croats know they can always go to Croatia if things get really rough.

Whether the Bosnian army manages to turn that imbalance to its advantage and achieve lasting military and territorial gains remains to be seen.

U.N. officials offer a cautious assessment of the Muslims' most recent gains in the southern city of Mostar, suggesting last week's advances, in which they overran a Croat military base, may have been no more than a pre-emptive strike to avoid being crushed by surrounding HVO forces.

To the north in the "Magaj Finger", the U.N. believes the Muslims could be pushed south as part of a deal between the HVO and the Serbs under which the Serbs would gain improved supply routes in a land swap with the Croats.

U.S. containment policy worries Iran

By Youssef Azmeh
Reuters

DUBAI — Iran, struggling to escape from isolation brought on by its militant Islamic revolution 14 years ago, is deeply worried by a new U.S. policy of "active containment", diplomats in the region said.

They said the U.S. missile strike against Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former President George Bush had heightened Iranian fears of possible military action.

The diplomats said although such U.S. action appeared remote, Iran could be embarrassed over the next few months by trials in Germany, France and Switzerland of men accused of murdering exiled Iranian dissidents.

"Although Iran has flatly denied any links with the murders, the trials may provide evidence that Washington could use to justify action against Iran," one diplomat said.

U.S. officials have issued a warning not only to Iraq's Saddam Hussein but also to "other governments that foster terrorism... We are going to be very aggressive in dealing with it."

Some of Washington's western allies were worried about the policy of outright hostility to Iran, fearing it could drive it back into the arms of anti-western radicals, the diplomats said.

The controversial policy outlined on May 18 by a senior

official of the new Clinton administration, Martin Indyk of the National Security Council, put Iran's Islamic rulers on a par with Iraq in hostility towards U.S. interests.

"We will pursue this effort of active containment unilaterally," Mr. Indyk said, adding that Washington would, however, seek the help of its allies as "we recognise that success will require multilateral efforts."

Mr. Indyk said the Clinton administration would not return to previous policies that played Iran and Iraq against each other as when it backed Saddam Hussein during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

"Iran, struggling to escape from isolation brought on by its militant Islamic revolution 14 years ago, is deeply worried by a new U.S. policy of 'active containment'. U.S. President Bill Clinton said on Monday the missile strike was a warning not only to Iraq's Saddam Hussein but also to 'other governments that foster terrorism... We are going to be very aggressive in dealing with it'."

More liberal Iranian officials, who want western investment to pull Iran out of its economic doldrums, fear that the new policy may derail the economic liberalisation programme of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

He is re-elected earlier this

month for a second four-year term, but with a substantially reduced majority. Liberal Iranians say he might have to take more notice of fundamentalist sentiments of the core supporters of the 1979 revolution.

Some Iranian officials have also warned privately that U.S. hostility may bring old foes Iran and Iraq closer together.

Uncase among some of Washington's allies also stemmed from fears about possible Iranian military adventures that could bring instability to the oil-rich Gulf region, diplomats said.

Mr. Indyk cited five reasons for

seeking to subvert "Arab governments friendly to the United States and wanted the ability to dominate the Gulf by military means."

"And, perhaps most disturbing, Iran is seeking a weapons of mass destruction capability, including clandestine nuclear weapons capability and ballistic missiles," Mr. Indyk said.

Western diplomats said Washington's allies were as worried about some of Iran's policies, especially Mr. Rafsanjani's inability or unwillingness to put an end to Iranian-linked murders of Iranian dissidents abroad and Tehran's weapons programme.

They said Mr. Clinton was widely expected to put considerable pressure on Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan at the July 7 Group of Seven summit in Tokyo to endorse his view.

But they said leaders of countries like France, Germany and Japan were likely to balk at the policy of open hostility.

Tehran-based western diplomats were virtually unanimous in advocating a carrot-and-stick approach that would put pressure on Iran to end undesirable practices but offer it in exchange the prospects of badly-needed foreign investment.

"Washington is not offering them anything in return if they behave themselves. They have no incentive to behave themselves," one western diplomat said.

A clear policy on Iraq

Not tied to one man's fate

By Anthony H. Cordesman

WASHINGTON — While the attack on the Baghdad headquarters of the Iraqi intelligence service is symbolically important, demonstrating that President Bill Clinton is prepared to use force — and to do so independently — a larger vision and further action is required.

U.S. policy towards the Gulf has been in limbo since the 1991 ceasefire. It has been shaped by the hope that the limited use of force combined with the United Nations' sanctions and embargo will force Saddam Hussein from power.

But it is by no means certain that this pressure can bring Saddam down. He could be felled tomorrow during internal struggles with his closest supporters or his senior military officers. Or he could last for years, responding to U.N. and U.S. pressures by forcing new sacrifices on his people, provoking new confrontations to arouse Iraqi nationalism and increasing the ruthlessness of his oppressive regime.

U.S. policy cannot be based on hope and a war of attrition or the fate of one man who may be replaced by an equally aggressive leader. It needs clear and achievable goals.

This means Mr. Clinton must shift from a policy based on driving Saddam Hussein from power to one based on long-term containment that the United States and its allies in and outside the region, and the United Nations, can live with. U.S. policy goals might take this form:

The Kurds

The United States evidently has quietly opposed a formal Kurdish autonomy agreement with the regime because it felt such an agreement would help Saddam Hussein stay in power. The United States should make it clear that while it does not support an independent Kurdish nation, it does insist on the kind of formal agreement on autonomy that protects the Kurds' legal and cultural rights, and their access to a fair share of Iraqi oil revenues, that Iraqi leaders have proposed for 25 years.

The United States ought to work with Turkey and its other allies to develop guarantees of Kurdish autonomy in Iraq that are separate from the issue of Kurdish nationalism elsewhere in the Middle East.

Kuwait's security

Mr. Clinton needs to make it clear that there can be no new relationship and real easing of tension and U.N. sanctions without Saddam's formal agreement to Kuwait's sovereignty and Kuwait's new boundaries.

An agreement signed only by Iraqi diplomats is meaningless, but the Algiers accord on the Iran-Iraq border in 1975 showed that Iraq's leadership could sometimes be forced to keep its word — for a while.

The Shiites in the south

The United States should accept the fact that a "no-fly" zone does nothing to protect the Shiites in southern Iraq, who already are firmly under the control of Saddam Hussein's army and internal-security forces. It should acknowledge that the 3,000 to 5,000-man rebel force is no more than an Iranian proxy and cannot overthrow Saddam Hussein.

The administration should make it clear that it would end the "no fly" zone in exchange for formal Iraqi agreement to the new Kuwaiti border and recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty.

Iran

The United States must acknowledge that Iran is as dangerous as Iraq and avoid making any deal with one enemy to put pressure on another.

As Bill Clinton has learned in dealing with Bosnia and the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, no president can afford to focus exclusively like a laser on the economy. He needs to fully appreciate that his ability to manage a continuing foreign policy crisis, like the one in the Gulf, will be as important to his success as president as anything that he does with the economy — The New York Times.

Human rights

We have lost the battle to enforce the U.N. ceasefire agreements on human rights, except in the Kurdish security zone. The Iraqi army, security forces and secret police are in control, and formal Iraqi agreements to preserve human rights will be symbolic at best.

We need to shift to a policy exposing Iraq's abuses. That means expanding the State Department's human rights report and helping Amnesty International, Middle East Watch and the world's media by using U.S. intelligence to disclose every new human rights abuse and publicly name the Iraqi officials responsible.

Weapons of mass destruction
The United States should help the United Nations set realistic goals for what the U.N. Special Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency can actually accomplish in the next six to 12 months, and demand that Iraq meet those goals.

It has to accept the grim fact that nothing the United States and U.N. can do can stop Iraq from eventually recovering its capability to use chemical and biological weapons, launch long-range missiles and exploit its nuclear weapons technology. The best we can do is to delay this recovery as long as possible.

Washington should insist on a continuing international embargo, tightly enforced, on the transfer of technology and equipment that would enable Baghdad to acquire such weapons.

Reparations, war crimes trials and the economic embargo
The sweeping U.N. resolutions and terms of the ceasefire dealing with war crimes and reparations are unenforceable and do more damage to the Iraqi people than to Saddam Hussein. They are, however, powerful threats.

We should trade our agreement to moderate or abolish them for a formal Iraqi agreement to accept the arms embargo and inspected limits on weapons of mass destruction and to grant full recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and new borders and Kurdish autonomy.

The regional coalition and regional security
The United States is in the Gulf to stay. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states can never defend themselves against Iraq and Iran without U.S. aid.

Mr. Clinton needs to steadily reinforce existing arrangements with the southern Gulf states to keep air and naval power in the region.

The United States needs at least one armoured division's worth of equipment prepositioned on land or ships in the area, and rapid sealift for at least one more heavy division based in the United States. In addition, America needs to be able to sustain at least two carrier task forces in the region for more than six months.

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The United States should help the United Nations set realistic goals for what the U.N. Special Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency can actually accomplish in the next six to 12 months, and demand that Iraq meet those goals.

It has to accept the grim fact that nothing the United States and U.N. can do can stop Iraq from eventually recovering its capability to use chemical and biological weapons, launch long-range missiles and exploit its nuclear weapons technology. The best we can do is to delay this recovery as long as possible.

Washington should insist on a continuing international embargo, tightly enforced, on the transfer of technology and equipment that would enable Baghdad to acquire such weapons.

Reparations, war crimes trials and the economic embargo
The sweeping U.N. resolutions and terms of the ceasefire dealing with war crimes and reparations are unenforceable and do more damage to the Iraqi people than to Saddam Hussein. They are, however, powerful threats.

We should trade our agreement to moderate or abolish them for a formal Iraqi agreement to accept the arms embargo and inspected limits on weapons of mass destruction and to grant full recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and new borders and Kurdish autonomy.

The regional coalition and regional security
The United States is in the Gulf to stay. Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states can never defend themselves against Iraq and Iran without U.S. aid.

Mr. Clinton needs to steadily reinforce existing arrangements with the southern Gulf states to keep air and naval power in the region.

The United States needs at least one armoured division's worth of equipment prepositioned on land or ships in the area, and rapid sealift

Troops wage war to keep Tajik-Afghan border shut

By Nadira Artykova
Agence France Presse

DUSHANBE — The Central Asian republic of Tajikistan has been slowly recovering from a bloody civil war but its border with Afghanistan has been the site of growing violence as border troops attempt to keep out Islamic rebels.

Russian and Uzbek troops who began arriving at border posts last year were placed under combat readiness in April after Tajik rebels, backed by the Afghan Mujahideen, began launching attacks to cross into Tajikistan.

"Major clashes happen almost every week and attempts to smuggle illegal drugs and guns

from Afghanistan are a daily occurrence," said Tajik Interior Minister Yakub Salimov.

Kazakh and Kyrgyz reinforcements, along with Tajik forces, have joined the Russian 201st Motorised Rifle Division in a bid to quash the repeated attacks on the border that have claimed the lives of 10 border guards over the past six months, according to official accounts.

The biggest attack to date occurred last May when two Russian border guards were killed in fierce clashes with 130 fighters.

Border raids on the stretch along the Pamir have been particularly violent and the mountainous terrain makes it almost impossible to seal the border

there, according to several Russian border guards who spoke on condition of anonymity.

One Russian border guard was killed last week when a group of 30 to 35 Islamic fighters launched an attack on the first day of a parliamentary session in Dushanbe.

One senior lieutenant with the Russian division, Rinat Enikeev, said there were over one hundred Tajik and Afghan guerrillas and that Tajik officials are trying to downplay the extent of the violence on the border.

"When I watch TV reports about Tajikistan, it makes me want to laugh," said Lt. Enikeev. "They lower the figures so as not to frighten anyone."

The lieutenant said that helicopters are widely used to chase out the rebels.

"We do not have to catch them. We just have to run them down by helicopter. War is war," says Lt. Enikeev, who earns a whopping 100,000 rubles (about \$100) per month, several times the average salary in Tajikistan.

Like Lt. Enikeev, most Russian soldiers were lured to Tajikistan with the promise of a better salary.

Anatoly Temosheyev, an 18-year old Russian conscript, signed up to serve in Tajikistan after he was offered 24,000 rubles a month, an attractive sum compared to the monthly wage of 1,800 rubles he received at his

post on the Russian Far East island of Sakhalin.

"I didn't want to come here though," says Mr. Temosheyev, adding that "all the guys that have gone to the border have regretted it afterwards."

Uzbek border guards appear to have more of a sense of purpose and of genuine concern in fulfilling their assignment on the Tajik-Afghan border.

"If Afghan fighters manage to cross the border here, then our motherland will be flooded with blood," predicted Sabir Khakimov, an Uzbek conscript from Tashkent.

Meanwhile, Tajik authorities are attempting to negotiate with Russia and Uzbekistan to train new Tajik conscripts at military

schools in those two countries.

The conscripts will eventually be called to complete the Russian border guard division faced with increased attacks from the Islamic rebels.

At least 100,000 Tajiks, tens of thousands of whom were Islamic rebels, fled the country during months of fighting last year between pro-communist and Muslim clans that was followed by a bloody crackdown against Islamic rebels by government forces in November.

Pro-communist leader Imomali Rakhmonov in December seized power in Dushanbe and launched a ruthless campaign against Islamic militants, notably in the Pamir Mountain region.

Egyptians suffer as government ignores a nasty little conflict

By Robert Fisk

Five-year-old Merit Mahrous lies in her hospital cot, curly hair falling over her blind eyes, crying softly whenever she hears her parents speak, a half-inch nail buried deep inside the left half of her brain. "She has been like this ever since the bomb," her father Nicola says with the kind of gentle smile that suffering often produces. "She recognises our voices but she can no longer see. We just wait."

For what? A good question. Perhaps, for the men who left the explosives beneath the Giza railway bridge two weeks ago, the radio-controlled nail-filled bomb which wounded five British tourists and their Egyptian guide and which drove that half inch of steel across the road, through the door of the car in which Merit's grandfather was driving and into the little girl's head. Indeed, you have to see her in her hospital cot, thrashing around amid her sheets and tubes and drip-feeds, to realise what the Egyptian war has come to.

Each day now, Egyptian newspaper readers are assured by their government that "terrorism" has been defeated, that Islamic fundamentalism is on the run. A Cairo shopkeeper told me this in a high-pitched, angry voice last Friday afternoon when I expressed some doubt about his assertion. "The bombers are finished — it is over," he kept shouting.

Four hours later, just two miles away, another nail-filled bomb exploded in the Choubra bus station, killing seven Egyptians, including a boy of 13.

How long can it go on before President Mubarak's cabinet acknowledges that it has got a war on its hands? Next morning, the Friday bombing was the fifth item on the Egyptian radio news, as if by ignoring the horror of what had happened the local reporters could somehow diminish its meaning. No one can even explain who set off the second bomb. Was it the Islamic Gema'at Islamiya (Islamic Movement) slaughtering their own people or — as one suspicious soul suggested near the Choubra bus station later — a government intelligence organisation anxious to provoke further anger against the fundamentalists? As the *Egyptian Gazette* coyly noted, "the apparent deliberate targeting of civilians did not fit the past pattern of actions by the main militant group."

It is a strange kind of conflict. No one in Egypt doubts President Mubarak's ruthlessness. He handed the first convicted Islamic fundamentalist in Alexandria nine days ago, even though the man's lawyers insist that the hidden weapons which doomed him were found in his brother's house. The Gema'at Islamiya promised revenge; thus the Islamists did their best to keep their word. A bomb was left

outside a shop in Aswan and defused. Another was placed beneath a train of petrol tankers at Aswan — where the regular tourist sleeper express for Cairo leaves each afternoon. Again, it was discovered by police.

Assuit, the fundamentalist capital ever since its Muslim population rose against the government after President Sadat's assassination, was the scene of one of the most serious incidents. On the railway platform just opposite the Badr Hotel, two bearded men were stopped by Egyptian security police. One of them immediately shot dead a policeman before himself being killed. His companion was wounded but managed to escape in a pick-up truck that was waiting outside the station.

Two Cairo newspapers devoted just a single paragraph on page two to this extraordinary event; or was this because such incidents are now rather ordinary? Faced with losses of \$1bn (\$670m) a year from the fall in tourism — the Gema'at correctly divined that foreign visitors were the soft underbelly of Egypt's economy — and growing evidence that, despite all his promises, the Islamic movement cannot be crushed so easily, Mr. Mubarak faces a dramatic new stage in the conflict. Another 22 men are on death row in Cairo after being convicted by a military court of attacking tourists and Egyptians over the past year. The military courts, according to the president, are "the peak of justice", they are certainly swift, which is, no doubt, why civilian courts no longer try members of the Gema'at.

There are those, like the former minister of justice, who believe that the Egyptian government must open a dialogue with the fundamentalists; indeed, the conviction that the minister had already spoken to them forced his resignation. And until a year ago, even the American embassy in Cairo was talking to the group. For Mr. Mubarak to hang more condemned men might destroy forever such possibilities. But to spare them might undermine the army's faith in the president's determination to fight on.

An unhappy equation, though one of little interest to Merit Mahrous and her family. They are Christian, but Egyptians of both religions have sent toys and flowers to the hospital. "Many people care about her," the doctor says as he looks at the little girl with her wide-open brown eyes. "It would be good if she could go abroad for treatment, to Switzerland, to America or Britain... We don't know if she's blind forever. We can't take the nail out now — it would do more harm. It is in her cerebellum. But we think she knows her parents' voices." — The Independent.

Lure of once-secret Russian diamond field draws entrepreneurs

By Fiona Fleck

Reuter

POMORYE, Russia — Set in the middle of a vast wilderness of swampland and dense forest, this geologists' settlement cannot be found on the map.

Pomorje is just 100 kilometres north of Arkhangelsk in northern Russia but it takes three-and-a-half hours to reach it by four-wheel-drive vehicle along a bumpy mud track.

For years it has concealed one of Russia's most closely guarded secrets.

"There are billions of dollars right under our feet," says geologist Vladimir Shukin. He points to an opening in the forest, where pines and silver birch have been cut away to form a muddy ring about 300 metres in diameter.

"We're not hiding what we have any more, we're proud of it," he says. "This is the Lomonosov — Europe's first diamond field — and it's not the last."

Russia's diamond industry was traditionally shrouded in secrecy. New discoveries of deposits were kept confidential, to avoid upsetting the sensitive diamond market and because the gems were considered a strategic material.

Prospecting in the region began in the early 1970s. The Lomonosov diamond field was found about 15 years ago. Seven years ago it was finally assessed as profitable to mine.

But the project has been on hold since, while the government decides if and when the brittle diamond market can absorb more gems without causing a drop in world prices.

"Our diamonds are of very high quality, half are gems and the rest are near-gem or industrial," Mr. Shukin says. "We could mine this deposit for 30 years...we should mine as soon as

possible."

Geologists are running a pilot project to establish the best method of recovery: open-cast mining, which is cheaper but would rip up stretches of countryside, or underground extraction, which is ecologically preferable but more costly.

Chunks of rusting scrap metal and discarded exploration equipment strewn across the ground languish in puddles of reddish water. Piles of timber rot on the damp earth. The site already looks abandoned.

Two small Russian-manufactured excavators stand ready to dig a pilot pit. But the mine will not be opened and excavation will not begin until the government makes up its mind.

In the past the state had sole rights to mine the former Soviet Union's mineral deposits. Since the Russian parliament passed a law on natural resources, all mining or mineral extraction companies must apply for a licence.

Officials from Severalmaz, the mining company set up last year and applying to mine the Lomonosov, are optimistic. They expect to have their licence in the next two months.

But the company faces many technical problems involved in mining land saturated with water. These are compounded by a new environmental protection law which requires industrial development to be ecologically sounder and therefore much more expensive.

In 1990 the Lomonosov, named after an 18th century Russian academic, entered the public arena and became the focus of a heated debate about the environment in Arkhangelsk.

Today, while Moscow decides the fate of the diamond field, the battle of words rages in Arkhangelsk. "We can't live without oil and

gas, but we can live without diamonds," said local politician and environmentalist Viktor Sadkov. "The (local) people won't benefit, only the shareholders in the mining company will be the winners."

Mr. Sadkov proposed a referendum in the region to decide whether the deposits should be mined. The local authorities refused, he believes, "because 80 per cent would have opposed it."

"If you build a road there, the swamp will die. The whole region's ecosystem depends on this area," he said.

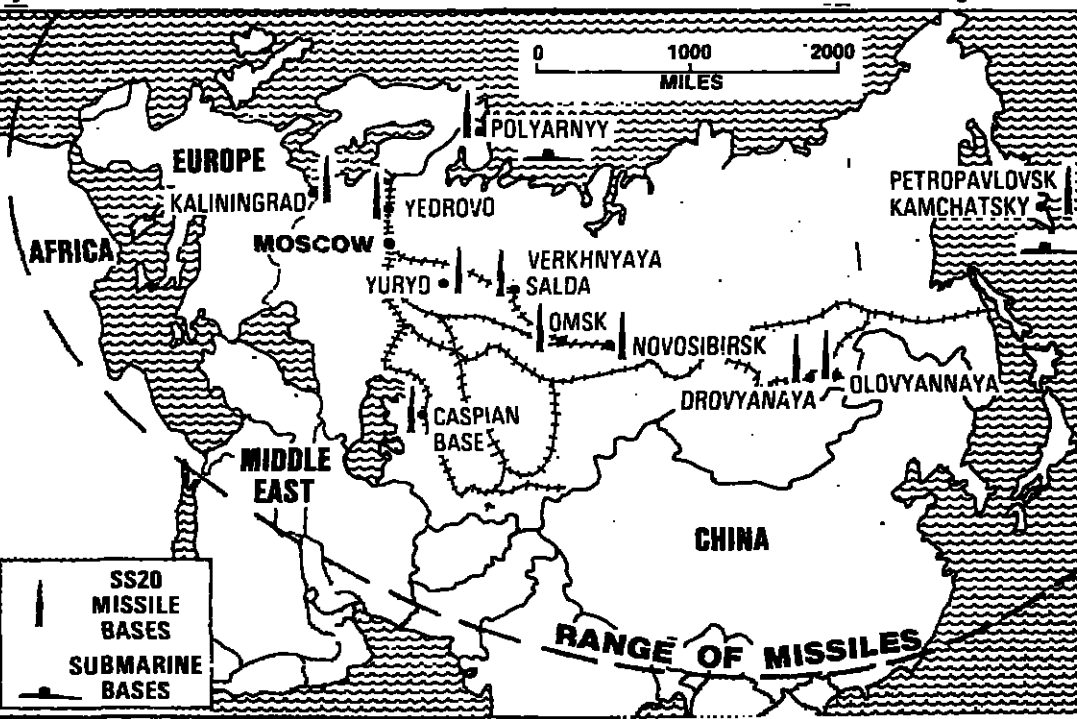
Local officials and the geologists-turned-entrepreneurs who set up the Severalmaz company know the environment is an emotive issue.

The prospective miners of Severalmaz say the field can be exploited with minimal damage to nature and that it offers a chance to develop a new industry and attract foreign investment.

Mr. Shukin, who has worked here for 20 years prospecting and exploring diamond deposits, points to a map of the region with 31 ringed areas targeted for exploration and a total of 60 diamond-bearing "pipes" (separate deposits).

"In three or four years there could be more diamond fields if money is invested in exploration," he says. "But it's an expensive business and turnaround is not very quick. Five to eight per cent of profits would go into the local budget according to the new law on natural resources," he says.

Anna Polipova, a local television journalist, said: "Here we have a very low standard of living...it does no harm to dream of a standard of living like the Saudi Arabians. There aren't so many people living in our region. It would not take much to raise the standard of living."



A young girl clenches her fist during a demonstration against terrorism in the Choubra neighbourhood in Cairo, June 25, where seven people were killed (AFP photo)

Old shipwreck suggests somebody beat Captain Cook to Australia

By Jack Taylor
Agence France Presse

SYDNEY — The history books may have to be rewritten because of new evidence that a wooden peg from an ancient shipwreck found near here was cut from a yew tree at least 110 years before Captain Cook arrived in 1770.

The ship, as yet unidentified but almost certainly European, is buried in 12 metres of sand on the coast near the New South Wales resort town of Byron Bay, where it was first discovered by sand-miners 30 years ago.

Fragments of the wreck were souvenired before it was abandoned again to the sand dunes, but they were never scientifically analysed — until now.

Carbon-testing just completed by Scot archaeologist Bill Boyd at the nearby University of New England dates a peg from the wreck at between 1450 and 1660 and Mr. Boyd believes the ship was likely to have been built

about the same time. Now, a search is underway for more locally-owned souvenirs from the ship to conduct further tests to prove what Mr. Boyd thinks is likely — that it was the first ship known to have visited the east coast of Australia.

He believes the ship is evidence that unknown Portuguese sailors beat Captain James Cook's endeavour to Australia almost two centuries before him.

Mr. Boyd, who did a doctorate at Glasgow University before coming here seven years ago, was given the peg by a local historian and asked to make a scientific analysis of it.

His analysis proved the wood was from the yew tree found in abundance in America and Europe and traditionally used for making tools, weapons and in ship-building. Carbon testing established its age with 95 per cent certainty.

Although Mr. Boyd is aware of the possibility the peg was older than the ship, he believes it is

likely the ship would have been built about the same time as the wood was cut from the tree.

"Even if it wasn't and being conservative about it, you can still say there is a fair chance that this ship was from the 1600s," he told AFP in an interview.

"And that relatively comfortably predates Cook's arrival, which was a significant landmark in terms of European exploration of this coast."

There is other evidence Portuguese sailors visited the north coast around the same time.

Said Mr. Boyd: "Vasco da Gama went through the Torres Strait in 1590 and there are reported landings by the Portuguese in the north of Australia in the very early part of the 17th century."

"Certainly I have no problem with the proposition that these intrepid explorers had a look down the east coast. This ship may well be the evidence. The ship is a long way down and

excavating it would be a big undertaking, but it may well happen. But what we need is more solid evidence to really convince everyone it is worth excavating."

The way to do that is to get more of the sort of dating evidence I have. There are some parts of the ship around the community and the local historian is trying to gather some more. There are local stories including an Aboriginal story about a group of European sailors living in that area for some time. It's difficult to put a date on this, but the implications are that these stories refer to this ship.

"My feeling is given the fact that the Portuguese were so important in the region prior to Cook being here that it is relatively likely that they are the people we are now seeing the last remains of. The evidence is circumstantial of course, but there is a strong suggestion, supported by the wood source and local aboriginal legends, that this is the case."

Arab inns on the road to peace

By Rona Kobell

Dov Chernobroda hopes to add cartographer to his list of credentials.

The Haifa town planner and architect wants to put Arab villages in Galilee on the tourist map with bed-and-breakfast inns.

"People from abroad are very interested in Arab life in Israel, in folklore. They know Arab life is different than Jewish life here," he says.

"We can sell the idea to the tourists who want to see both sides."

Ibilia Mayor Sallah Saleem has a more ambitious sales pitch. Mr. Saleem hopes that bringing Israeli tourists to his tranquil village will help demystify the perception of Arabs here.

"I want to show that hospitality is the way to peace," he says. The picturesque Galilee town is 20 minutes from the bustle of Nazareth and Haifa, 30 minutes from Acre and Rosh Hanikra, and 10 minutes from Kiryat Ata.

The bed-and-breakfast idea is still in its infancy, but plans are being solidified. Investors hope to establish 15 to 20 bed-and-breakfast inns in Ibilia, with two to four guests in each home.

Mr. Chernobroda's idea for bed-and-breakfast inns was inspired by his observations while working in Arab villages in the north, including Shifaram, Kafir Kanna and Umm Al Fahm. Lack of public funds and employment opportunities cause Arabs to search for work outside their homes, he says.

According to the Tel Aviv-based Centre for Jewish-Arab Economic Development (CIAED), an organisation for economic development in the Arab sector and for Arab-Jewish business partnerships here, 52 per cent of Arab workers are employed outside their villages, compared to 30 per cent of Jewish workers in development towns.

"Many workers in the hotel industry in city hotels are Arabs," Mr. Chernobroda says. "They have the experience. They should also have the opportunity to work inside their towns."

Arab families often leave first-floor apartments in their homes vacant in case their children marry and want to return.

According to Mr. Chernobroda, these apartments can accommodate two to four people and would be ideal for tourists who want to experience all facets of life here.

Mr. Chernobroda presented his idea to the CIAED.

Helme Ketane, codirector and supervisor of the CIAED's economic unit and a former branch manager for Bank Hapoalim, approached the mayors of several villages with an assistant, volunteer Adam Sheer.

"We check to see if the idea will work — if the place is right and also if the people are open to foreigners and foreign ideas," Mr. Sheer says.

Mr. Ketane says checking economic feasibility is crucial to business success. His organisation also has another item on its agenda.

"I believe in strengthening and lengthening the days of peace. An economic basis will make or break peace."

Mr. Sheer envisions economics as cementing a foundation for peace.

"If two peoples are economically interdependent, then they have mutual interests. If they have mutual economic interests, then the well-being of one depends on the well-being of the other and vice versa. A peaceful coexistence is cemented by the

desire to be well-off economically."

Sarah Kreimer, CIAED founder and codirector, says that Jews here have changed in their attitudes towards their Arab countrymen.

Israeli Jews have in recent years been "more willing to develop contacts with Israeli Arabs because they believe that, in five to 10 years, there will be peace in the Middle East or at least enough peace to be commercially active. Then Israeli Arabs will be the link between Jews in Israel and Arabs in other countries."

Ms. Kreimer says her five-year-old organisation's real success is in bringing together on a large scale people with mutual interests.

"Arabs and Jews don't have many opportunities to get together. We have brought together 1,000 business people to make contacts with each other," she says.

The organisation has brought Arabs and Jews together in several partnerships, including a block factory in Kfar Hassidim, near Haifa; a wall-hanging business in Kfar Vadim; and a new shopping centre called Hashalom Mall in Umm Al Fahm, between Hadera and Afula.

"Israeli Jews have in recent years been more willing to develop contacts with Israeli Arabs because they believe that, in five to 10 years, there will be peace in the Middle East or at least enough peace to be commercially active. Then Israeli Arabs will be the link between the Jews in Israel and Arabs in other countries."

Ms. Kreimer says the mall will be the only shopping centre in the area open on Friday and Saturdays.

The initiative for the mall came after the Kassem family, owners of a large plot near the Wadi Ara road, approached the CIAED. They said they owned the land but did not have the capital or know-how to build on it.

The CIAED carried out a feasibility study centering on the population of Umm Al Fahm, what and how much people there would buy, demographic statistics, where the townspeople's money is spent and the site's location.

When all these factors pointed to a prospective profit for investors and the community, the organisation found three Jewish investors for the \$6 million project, Ms. Kreimer says.

The CIAED has also launched an entrepreneurs' course to bring Arabs into the mainstream Israeli economy. The first course, offered last year in Givat Haviva, guided participants who came with a business idea in its planning and implementation.

Ms. Kreimer says the goal is for graduates of the course to start their own businesses in the Arab sector.

Graduates who present their ideas to the centre may be eligible for loans of up to \$50,000 from the centre's loan fund, which operates in conjunction with Barclay's Discount Bank, she says — The Jerusalem Post.

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Naga Nura Alshaykh
Secretary

China announces tough austerity plan

PEKING (R) — China has announced a tough, 16-point austerity plan to try to control its dangerously overheating economy, a Communist Party-controlled newspaper said Saturday.

The plan, which includes raising interest rates from the 10 per cent in the first five months of 1993, the Hong Kong Wen Wei Po said.

The measures are China's toughest austerity programme since Peking cut growth to the bone in the late 1980s. They involve suspending new price reform measures for the second half of the year, forbidding most new government imports of cars and shrinking the size of infrastructure projects.

The newspaper, Peking's mouthpiece in the British colony is often used for sensitive announcements. Chinese sources

in Peking confirmed the outline of the report.

China's leaders, worried about inflation that has zoomed to around 20 per cent in cities, investment that has run amok and a money supply that is ballooning at a 50 per cent yearly rate, fired the central bank governor Friday.

Chief economic troubleshooter, Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji, was appointed to the sensitive post.

"This shows that Zhu Rongji has really taken charge," said a Western economic analyst.

The newspaper said the austerity measures "will not have a great impact on economic construction, but will have a good effect on unravelling the present contradictions."

Economic analysts said this meant China had decided to burst speculative bubbles in stocks, real estate and other get-rich-quick schemes in an attempt to redirect funding to needed projects.

China's leaders — who four years ago ordered the army to

crush pro-democracy protests centred in Peking's Tiananmen Square — are terrified at the thought of popular unrest.

Already city residents are grumbling about high prices and peasant riots have erupted over high taxes, corruption and the failure of the government to pay promissory notes.

Analysts said the measures would work only if the central government was able to reassert its control over provinces that have grown increasingly independent as they have become wealthier.

The other danger for China is that its economy has never responded well to fine tuning — austerity programmes in the past have increased popular unhappiness because they cut off the growth that was giving people better lives.

"We have the saying 'loosen control and you get chaos, tighten control and you kill it all,'" a Chinese economist said.

"How can you find a middle way in a country like China?" he asked.

The austerity measures involve:

- Calling in loans diverted to speculative schemes
- Forcing workers within the next two weeks to buy up all of an issue of government bonds that had failed because interest rates were too low. No locality will be allowed to issue any other kind of stock or bond until it has sold its quota of the government paper.
- Raising interest rates to cut investment rates and soak up funds that had gone to speculative schemes
- Forcing non-financial institutions to abide by a strict deadline to repay funds borrowed from financial institutions
- Imposing a 20 per cent cut in government spending, limits on institutional buying and a basic ban on new imports of cars
- Suspending new price reform measures for the second half of the year
- Protecting farmers' interests by forbidding the issuance of new

way in a country like China?" he asked.

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- Imposing a 20 per cent cut in government spending, limits on institutional buying and a basic ban on new imports of cars
- Suspending new price reform measures for the second half of the year
- Protecting farmers' interests by forbidding the issuance of new

primissory notes instead of cash

— Ending all the tricky fundraising schemes that have blossomed in the past year, setting off a number of embarrassing scandals

- Controlling strictly the real estate fever in China's numerous development zones
- Reducing the scale of infrastructure projects
- Forcing order into the stock market experiment by controlling the speed with which companies list their shares
- Reforming the export financing system
- Forcing banks to be more professional in the way they approve loans
- Strengthening the central bank
- Clearing some of the transport bottlenecks that have kept goods piling up in storage mountains
- Sending inspection teams around the country to ensure that localities obey orders from the central government.

London Aug. 1. Futures for benchmark Brent 'lend crude from the North Sea sank to \$16.67 per barrel, down \$1 since Wednesday and about \$2 lower in less than a month.

Glut fear sends oil price to post-Gulf war lows

LONDON (R) — The oil price dropped to its lowest since just after the end of the Gulf war, Friday on a belief in the market that Iraq would soon be allowed to sell oil again, threatening a glut.

Prices started a new slide Thursday when the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said the United States would not object to oil sales by Iraq under terms agreed with the U.N.

Big investment funds piled in to sell oil futures Friday. "It looks horrible and funds are selling the hell out of this market," said one London trader.

The price was last at these levels in February 1991, just after the Gulf war, when the market overreacted to news of victory against Iraq for the U.S.-led coalition forces.

Light crude futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange dropped 50 cents in the new wave of selling Friday.

Iraq has been banned by the U.N. from exporting oil since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But talks resume in New York next Wednesday on proposals to let it sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil over a six-month period, under supervision, to raise money for humanitarian purposes.

Oil prices were already weak on fears of excess supply by members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) under a new production agreement which took effect

Thursday. Kuwait has refused to accept a quota in an accord reached last month which it calls unfair.

OPEC will have to act to regulate supply if Iraq, a member of the group, does return to the market.

"Brent under \$17 is not good for any producer, in or outside OPEC," Oil Minister Alvaro Parra of Venezuela told Reuters.

A Baghdad-based diplomat said Iraq had agreed to one key U.N. condition that had been a stumbling block in past negotiations on oil sales. This was that it would use a pipeline across Turkey to move oil.

Traders' ideas on where the oil market might find support were blurred.

"\$16.50 sounds logical for support but we are now in uncharted territory," said a London broker.

Clinton clears way for IMF lending to Vietnam

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton dropped U.S. opposition Friday to loans to Vietnam by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in recognition of Hanoi's efforts to account for U.S. troops missing from the Vietnam war.

The move by Mr. Clinton clears the way for a Japanese and French-led plan to refinance \$140 million of Vietnam's debt through the IMF, which has not made loans to Vietnam since 1978.

The landmark announcement was the most significant easing of U.S.-Vietnam relations since 1975, when Vietnam was unified under communist rule and U.S. troops withdrew.

However, Mr. Clinton steered

short of lifting the ban on U.S. companies trading with Vietnam.

"Progress to date is simply not sufficient to warrant any change in our trade embargo or any further steps toward normalisation," he said.

Mr. Clinton said in a statement that the easing of U.S. opposition to trade with Vietnam was "driven not by commercial interests but by the overriding purpose of achieving further progress" on the issue of missing U.S. troops.

Normalised ties between Vietnam and the IMF would unlock several hundred million dollars in IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank and bilateral soft loans that Hanoi needs to

restructure its economy and rebuild its ragged infrastructure.

However, it could take one or two months before IMF money begins trickling into Vietnam, IMF officials said.

IMF funds were suspended following Vietnam's 1978 invasion of Cambodia.

IMF executive board members will meet either July 12 or 14 for a semi-annual review of Vietnam's arrears to the fund. IMF and World Bank experts are already helping Hanoi.

Bill Bennett, spokesman for the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition, said IMF funding will lead to more international funding and Asian and European investment, lessening Hanoi's need for U.S. trade and diplomatic ties.

Yen's rise clouds outlook

OECD sees Japanese recovery soon

PARIS (AFP) — The recession appears to have bottomed out in Japan and economic activity should pick up in the next half-year, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

It cautioned, however, that signs of an upturn were as yet "rather fragile," with the yen's 10 per cent rise in recent months "adding to uncertainties over business prospects."

In its semi-annual Economic Outlook, the OECD projected growth of 1.0 per cent in the Japanese economy this year, rising at an accelerated pace from the second half to reach 3.3 per cent in 1994, well short of the 1991 performance of 4.0 per cent.

In 1992 as a whole, the economy expanded by a paltry 1.3 per cent, as a severe contraction cut GDP by 1.4 per cent at annual rate in the second half on flat consumer demand and falling investment.

Weakness continued in the first quarter of this year, with private sector investment still declining because of overcapacity and excess inventories in industry, and personal income gains being held back by a two-year worsening of corporate profits.

The OECD said export growth seemed to have slowed in the first months of the year, due to weaker overseas markets and the yen's appreciation, which was cutting into Japan's export market shares.

However, because of terms of trade effects and weak import demand, Japan's trade surplus continued to rise.

The OECD said the yen's appreciation would over time restrain volume growth of exports, but projected a rise in the trade surplus from \$132 billion last year

to \$149 billion this year and nearly \$160 billion in 1994.

The main sources of strength in domestic demand early this year were residential construction and public works, still responding to the August 1992 fiscal stimulus package.

Continued weakness in private sector demand prompted the government to announce a second, 13.2-trillion-yen stimulus package last April, based largely on public infrastructure spending and accompanied by front-loading of public works contracts planned for the current financial year.

The OECD noted that the package includes investment in education, research and social welfare facilities, extra funds for a housing loan institution, and measures to support small and

medium businesses and housing and business investment.

Without this second package, the OECD report said, Japan might have faced even lower growth of some 0.5 per cent this year and 1.75 to two per cent in 1994.

The more expansionary fiscal stance has been accompanied by Bank of Japan action to ease monetary policy in a context of weak demand, declining inflation and a rising currency.

The bank's official discount rate was cut to 2.5 per cent last February, matching its 1987-88 low. A six-month decline in the money stock has been reversed.

The OECD noted that Japanese financial institutions, hurt by problem loans stemming from continued weakness in real

British Steel loses £149m

LONDON (AFP) — British Steel, Britain's main steel-making group, has announced a tripling of its pre-tax losses to £149 million for the year ended in March from £55 million the year before.

The losses were slightly lower than expected by the City, where analysts had predicted a loss of around £170 million. Turnover fell four per cent to £5.08 billion from £5.28 billion the year before. The new chairman of the group, Brian Moffat said the year had been "difficult for the steel industry" because of a fall in demand and the overcapacity in Europe.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JULY 4, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Four minor moon aspects won't permit anyone from keeping you from doing what you have planned for today. Have a good time and do what you can to see that others do likewise. Show that you are a good host.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Matters at your own residence that have been left undone, for whatever reason have a good chance now to be handled in such a manner, they no longer trouble you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is the moment when you can handle that unfinished correspondence and whatever conferences that have been started but not yet completed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have odds and ends of work already begun on your property that will not take long to do but which requires your own individual attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have many personal things to do that will improve both your appearance and your vitality and this is the time to get them out of the way.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Behind the scenes intimate duties can occupy rightly a considerable amount of your hours and free valuable time in the oncoming days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) You need to be a little more understanding and warm towards a pal who is having a difficult time and looks to you for assistance in rising above worries.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to consider what you can do in the world of outside activity to have more efficiency and be happier at the vocational outlets you have to do.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the moment when it is necessary you scan your newspaper and other sources of revenue to discover how you can grow and develop more quickly.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have a number of promises you have made that have not yet been entirely completed to the satisfaction of anyone who is connected to you finish them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Today is one of those moments when much conversation and discussion with outside persons cue you in on what you can do to make success of a project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Although Sunday is a day of rest there are many things that you can do to make, our surroundings more suitable to your purposes.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have been planning some interesting recreations but unless you actually do your part of the arrangements it could go sour on you for not doing so.

U.S. unemployment rate rises to seven per cent

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.N. unemployment rate rose to seven per cent in June from 6.9 per cent in May and job growth stalled, the government reported Friday, heightening fears that the economy was in gridlock.

"It's a mess," said economist Bob Brusca of Nikko Securities International. "I'm worried about the economy."

The Labour Department said payrolls outside the farm sector grew a scant 13,000 last month, far below the 215,000 gain in May that had raised hopes of faster growth.

"The increase in the unemployment rate in June is further evidence that the economy is now barely growing," said economist John Albertine, who runs his own

Washington firm. "Indeed, for the average American worker, this is a phony recovery," he said. "It is not creating jobs or growing incomes."

A few weeks ago, economists were worried that a snap in inflation might force the Federal Reserve (Fed) to raise interest rates. Now — with many reports pointing to a slowdown — those views are changing.

The Fed's policymaking Federal Open Market Committee meets next week to consider growth and interest rates and economists said the group will hold tight for now.

"I think what the Fed does is go back to neutral policy," said Jim Winder, senior money mar-

ket economist at Merrill Lynch.

The stock market took the news hard, coming after reports of slumping manufacturing, a sharp drop in home sales and a steep fall in consumer confidence. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 25 points in the afternoon.

The report was also a setback for President Bill Clinton, who pledged to create jobs, but admitted Friday that the economy was only moving in "fits and starts."

Just days ahead of an economic summit with the leaders of the Group of Seven industrial nations, Mr. Clinton stressed the importance of working together to boost growth.

Bahrain dealers see latest IBM printers

A group of Bahrain computer dealers met at the Regency Inter-Continental to see the latest range of IBM Laser Printers introduced in Europe last month by Lexmark. Five highly intelligent new printers comprising the 4039 family were demonstrated, showing their speed and technology advances using RISC processor.

PCLs and PostScript software compatibility is standard and language switching through SmartSwitch is automatic. The resolution of 600 dots-per-inch gives very sharp printing quality, with the advantage of enhancement achieving smoother curved lines and solid edges.

Coca-Cola venture approved in India

The Coca-Cola Company confirmed today that the government of India has approved the company's application for a 100 per cent-owned business in India. The application and its approval are in line with recent steps taken by the government to open the way for foreign

investment in India. The approval authorised Coca-Cola South Asia Holdings, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Coca-Cola Company, to implement 100 per cent ownership of a venture for beverage blending operations, to supply licensed local bottlers in India.

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Herrn Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ABNIS
WONNK
CRESPO
GANFIC

WHAT HE WAS AS A RESULT OF TEACHING HIS TEEN-AGER TO DRIVE.

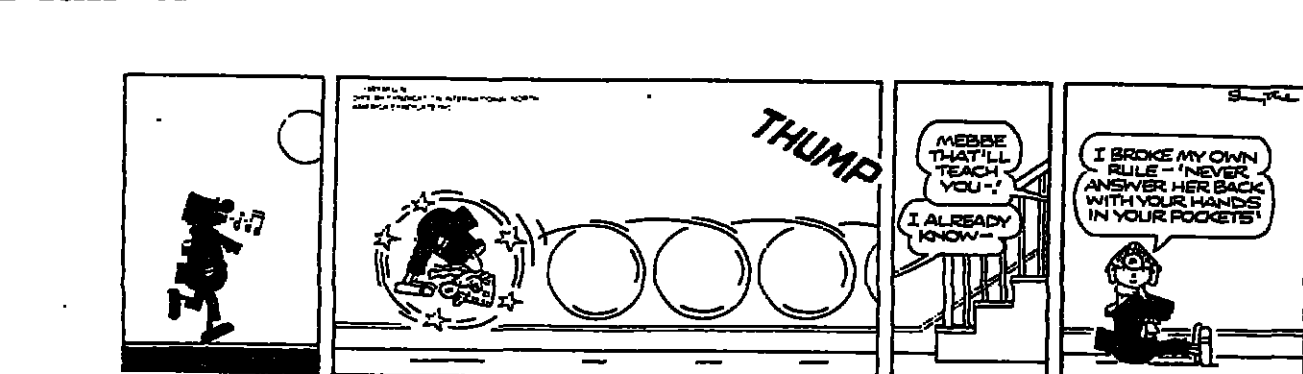
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

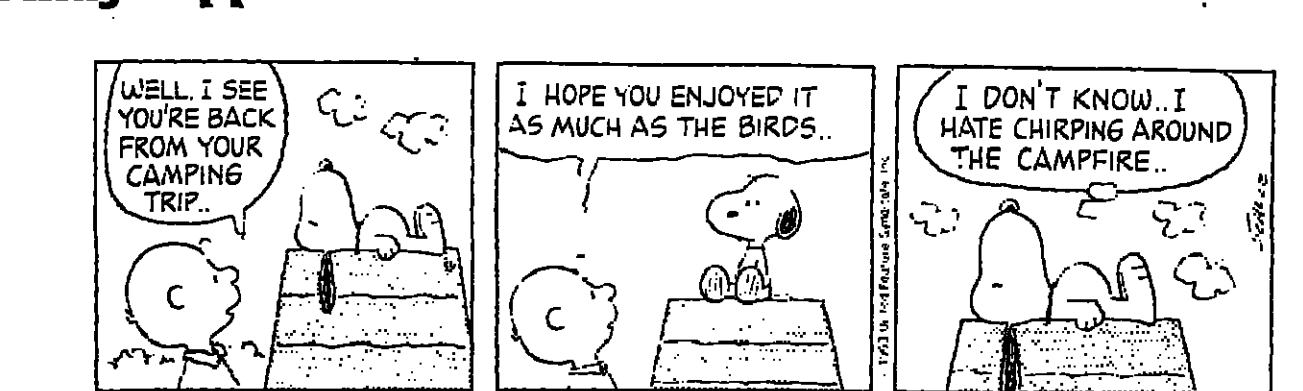
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOUT ALBUM FACADE HOMAGE
Answer: What it takes to get those two all fixed up — A MATCH

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

ACROSS

- 1 Racehacks
- 6 Preserves
- 9 Mids O' Grady
- 14 Courage
- 16 Where Salt Lake City is
- 17 Make sheep noises
- 18 Philistine city
- 19 Swampy ground
- 20 Goes back to square one
- 22 Ballet move
- 23 Star State
- 24 Swale
- 26 Did the laundry
- 30 Page
- 32 G
- 33 — boy!
- 35 Vampire
- 39 Discomfort
- 41 Fix firmly on the mind
- 43 Urges
- 44 Farm building
- 45 So long
- 47 Gashes
- 49 Fix, as a sink
- 51 Feed
- 54 River in France
- 56 Film kon
- 57 Racing no-no
- 63 Culture medium
- 64 Ol' a period
- 65 Zoo attraction
- 66 Golf or dog and
- 67 Tushingham of
- 68 Sems —
- 69 Pianist Myra
- 70 Rep y loo
- 71 Cereal grass disease

DOWN

- 1 Globing
- 2 Electrical unit
- 3 Confuser
- 4 Dissembler
- 5 Come to terms
- 6 Prod
- 7 Most stable
- 8 Gnw
- 9 Battery posts
- 10 Off center
- 11 Antikrante
- 12 Uter
- 15 Parasyms
- 21 Fountain drinks
- 25 Kennel noise
- 26 Ineffectual one
- 27 Slightly open
- 28 Song for one
- 29 Advantages of a kind
- 31 Approve
- 32 Criticize
- 34 Method for assessing
- 37 Proportion words
- 38 Hurry-up letters
- 40 — of P-ne
- 42 Mckley
- 45 Ser aside
- 48 Derive by reasoning
- 50 C: cozy
- 51 Run ashore
- 52 Primrose plants

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

USUR GRASP JARS
PRITE AURAL OBOE
PREVALENCE LURE
EWE LODI TWINED
BEMOILED
LIVES
AMPIRE PHOTOGRAPH
TARIO POLIA AGES
LOU MEUSE OBESE
MORTUINS FIRE
PASTORAL MOTENS
PRIDE GEMAN LOTY
RIGHT OXIDIE HAUL
TINS NINETEEN

53 Fulers
54 A region
58 Uninteresting
59 Stratum

60 All atwitter
61 Report town
62 Waste allowance

Study examines risks to Jordan from dependence on Gulf economies

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan risks an economic relapse if development efforts are not geared to lessen the Kingdom's old policies of relying on external assistance, a study warns.

The study, prepared by Nabil Ammari, head of the research department at the Ministry of Planning, points out that the more Jordan depends on foreign financial support the more the Kingdom will be vulnerable to external political and economic shocks.

These shocks, which cannot be locally controlled, will have a double negative effect on the whole internal economic activities, Dr. Ammari asserts.

Dr. Ammari focused in his study, which was presented at an economic symposium organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies and held two weeks ago at the University of Jordan, on the Kingdom's main dependence on Gulf Arab countries.

He explained that Jordan's economy over the past three decades was tied to the economies of the Gulf region through the following channels:-

A) Financial aid from central governments.
B) Money transfers from Jordanian expatriates.

C) Payments for Jordanian exports.

These three channels covered a large and important portion of the country's need for foreign exchange.

The researcher referred to central bank statistics and said external aid, with the exception of loans, constituted 63 per cent of overall revenues in 1979 and 1980. From 1981 to 1988, external aid declined gradually until it reached a 27 per cent low in 1988.

External aid picked up in 1989 and 1990 to 37.3 per cent and 33.5 per cent respectively due to the extraordinary financial assistance received from abroad to counter the grave economic crisis of 1988.

Dr. Ammari pointed out that Arab aid was 90 per cent of the total external assistance during the 1970s and 80s, with Saudi Arabia being the main donor, followed by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates in third place.

However, he noted, external aid had never been timely or adequate in terms of volume, with a good example being the aid pledge which was given to Jordan at the Baghdad summit and which has never been fully paid.

Other factors which kept aid

from Arab governments unsteady were the oil boom of 70s and early 80s and the following recession when, in 1983, oil prices crashed and resulted in deteriorating economic activities in the donor Arab countries. The Iraq-Iran war also had an impact on the volume of aid to Jordan as Gulf Arab states gave priority to financing the war costs.

The Gulf crisis was the last to deal a heavy blow to Jordan's policy of dependence on external governmental aid and to prompt an overall change in the Kingdom's financial structure.

Remittances of Jordanian expatriates in the Gulf had played a key role in shaping the country's economic performance, especially contributing to the growth of foreign exchange holdings, raising investment levels and increasing consumption.

According to the statistics given by Dr. Ammari, the ratio of imports to the gross domestic product reached a high of 98.9 per cent in 1981 before falling gradually over the years to register a low of 56.7 per cent in 1986.

Dr. Ammari attributed the decline to the extremely low oil prices of 1983 and the resulting economic recession in the Gulf region.

From 1979-1987, he said, imports of goods and services were double the volume of exports, but the percentage fell to 170 per cent and 160 per cent in 1988 and 1989 respectively. Due to the higher demand from Gulf returnees, the percentage of imports to exports shot up again in 1990 and 1991.

Remittances were given an added importance when the researcher pointed that their contribution along with other unrequited transfers represented 51.5 per cent of the total government receipts from abroad from 1979 until 1986. Both items financed 50.3 per cent of external payments during the same period.

These expatriate remittances were a major force behind the Kingdom's high growth rates and high consumption in the early 80s and in 1990 and 1991. Throughout the period from 1979-1991, total annual consumption had always exceeded the gross domestic product of the same year, statistics show.

Jordan's trade concentration on Gulf Arab countries made the Kingdom be extra-sensitive to external shocks coming from or through that region. The extent of the effect was

illustrated by the researcher in the following examples:

A) Jordanian exports to the Gulf fell from 56.5 per cent and 57.4 per cent of all exports in 1981 and 1982 respectively to a mere 19.5 per cent of all exports in 1991.

B) Exports to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait plunged from JD 187.1 million in 1989 to JD 67.8 million in 1991, a powerful 63.7 per cent drop.

Dr. Ammari noted that "Jordan's dependence on neighbouring Arab states to import oil constituted an important element in analysing the future of the Jordanian economy."

The researcher added that Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Jordan's

two main oil sources, imported 81.3 per cent of all Jordanian exports to the Gulf from 1979-1991. Iraq and Kuwait, however, accounted for 53.7 per cent of the Jordanian exports from 1979-1989.

Transit transport also showed the danger from dependence on the Gulf region as transit trade declined sharply in 1990 and 1991 due to the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Transit trade grew steadily from 3,128,900 tonnes in 1981 to 9,929,400 tonnes in 1988 before sliding to 1,561,700 tonnes in 1991.

Dr. Ammari tied Jordan's fluctuating degrees of unemployment to the varying stages of economic

activities in the Gulf countries and pointed out that the current rate of unemployment was a direct result of the strained relations with these countries at present.

The researcher said the large numbers of Gulf returnees have put extra pressure on the budget and the Kingdom's infrastructure.

Dr. Ammari saw the structural adjustment programme and the debt rescheduling as well as other economic and financial incentives, directives and controls being implemented as being all positive and on the right track to give Jordan a better self-reliant economy that is more resilient to external factors.

Ratio of product exports to Gulf countries to overall volume of national exports (in JD millions)

Year	Exports to Gulf countries	Overall exports to all countries	Percentage of exports to Gulf to overall exports
1979	39.6	82.6	47.9%
1980	56.1	120.1	46.7%
1981	95.5	169.0	56.5%
1982	106.5	185.6	57.4%
1983	79.4	160.1	49.6%
1984	123.4	261.1	47.3%
1985	119.8	255.3	46.9%
1986	87.5	225.6	38.8%
1987	103.3	248.8	41.5%
1988	116.5	324.8	35.9%
1989	208.4	534.1	39.0%
1990	208.6	612.3	34.1%
1991	116.7	598.6	19.5%

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Transit trade activity at Aqaba Port 1979 — 1992 (in 000's tonnes)

Year	Import transit	Export transit	Total transit	Total exports and imports	Percentage of transit to total imports and exports
1979	161.1	35.6	196.7	5043.5	3.9%
1980	941.4	45.6	987.0	6642.1	14.9%
1981	3030.7	98.2	3128.9	9426.3	33.2%
1982	4166.3	142.1	4308.4	11672.8	36.9%
1983	2936.9	639.7	3576.6	11157.9	32.1%
1984	3220.2	1415.0	4635.2	13606.4	34.1%
1985	4007.7	2046.2	6053.9	14547.7	41.6%
1986	4462.5	2700.9	7163.4	16849.7	42.5%
1987	5941.4	3177.6	9119.0	20015.4	45.6%
1988	6930.2	2999.2	9929.4	20096.2	49.4%
1989	6162.9	1249.0	7411.9	18680.6	39.7%
1990	3230.4	390.3	3620.7	15049.9	24.1%
1991	1524.8	36.9	1561.7	13225.5	11.8%
1992	2093.5	38.6	2132.1	13382.3	15.9%

Source: Department of Statistics

Total consumption and GDP at current prices 1979 — 1991 (in JD millions)

Year	GDP	Private consumption	Public consumption	Total consumption	Domestic savings	Percentage of total consumption to GDP
1979	955.6	827.5	335.1	1162.6	-207.0	121.7%
1980	1156.6	922.9	342.7	1265.6	-109.0	109.4%
1981	1443.3	1164.3	445.5	1609.8	-166.0	111.5%
1982	1675.1	1470.5	474.8	1945.3	-270.2	116.1%
1983	1793.0	1580.2	468.2	2048.4	-255.4	114.2%
1984	1999.2	1689.0	529.8	2218.8	-279.6	114.4%
1985	1969.8	1785.0	527.2	2312.2	-342.4	117.4%
1986	2114.6	1717.1	561.9	2279.0	-164.4	107.8%
1987	2162.7	1680.2	582.4	2262.6	-99.9	104.6%
1988	2218.4	1672.4	600.3	2272.7	-54.3	102.4%
1989	2329.9	1766.4	615.4	2381.8	-51.9	102.2%
1990	2612.5	2380.8	657.6	3038.4	-425.9	116.3%
1991	2779.4	2539.0	738.9	3277.9	-498.5	117.9%

Sources: Department of Statistics Central Bank of Jordan

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Financial Markets

in co-operation with
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 1/7/93	New York Close Date 2/7/93
Sterling Pound	1.5155	1.5075
Deutsche Mark	1.6930	1.6960
Swiss Franc	1.5070	1.5110
French Franc	5.7155	5.7383
Japanese Yen	107.53	108.50
European Currency Unit	1.1474**	1.1540

USD Per SDR
European Unit per USD 1.33603

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 2/7/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	2.75	3.00	3.31	3.43
Sterling Pound	5.78	5.78	5.75	5.75
Deutsche Mark	7.50	7.38	7.08	6.53
Swiss Franc	4.81	4.75	4.63	4.37
French Franc	7.38	7.00	6.60	6.15
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.21	3.15	3.18
European Currency Unit	7.62	7.31	6.95	6.43

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 M. Dollars, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 3/7/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0482	1.0534
Deutsche Mark	0.4100	0.4121
Swiss Franc	0.4601	0.4624
French Franc	0.1212	0.1218
Japanese Yen	0.6405	0.6437
Dutch Guilder	0.3652	0.3670
Swedish Krona	0.0902	0.0907
Italian Lira	0.0451	0.0453
Belgian Franc	0.01994	0.02004

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6200	1.6410
Lebanese Lira	0.0380	0.0415
Saudi Riyal	0.18500	0.18575
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2900

Per 100

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Over 300 die in Philippine boat disaster; Ramos orders probe

COCAUE, Philippines (AFP) — More than 300 Roman Catholic devotees have been confirmed drowned after an overloaded, makeshift barge sank in the Philippines during a religious procession, officials said Saturday.

Reacting to the tragedy, President Fidel Ramos ordered his interior secretary Rafael Alunan to investigate the accident "and to look into the possible culpability of any persons for the tragedy."

More than 20 hours after Friday night's disaster, rescuers had recovered 20 bodies, mostly children and women, but many more bodies were still being recovered from the polluted Bulo River.

As weary frogmen continued their search of the murky waters of the 75-metre wide river, bodies began to float to the surface, after almost a day underwater.

The frogmen, visibly exhausted after working overnight in almost zero visibility, said they believed many bodies were still trapped in the debris of the barge. "They

will just float to the top after a day," one frogman said.

It was the country's deadliest disaster this year and the worst of its kind in this largely Catholic archipelago where fluvial processions dedicated to Jesus Christ and town patron saints are popular forms of devotion.

Bodies pulled out of the 10-metre deep river were brought to the town plaza, quickly embalmed, and turned over to grieving families, some of whom lost several members in the accident.

Donations of formalene and ice for preserving the bodies, along with coffins, poured into the town in response to radio requests by local officials who earlier said they were running out of all three items due to the large number of fatalities.

Manila officials also dispatched huge trucks to help transport the bodies in coffins from the overcrowded plaza.

Secretary Alunan, the first national official to visit the accident site, earlier Saturday told local authorities to task for what

he said was "evidently a case of negligence," and ordered an investigation into the freak mishap. However, Bocaue Mayor Serafin De La Cruz said they were not at fault and that a private group was behind the organisation of the annual riverine parade.

The procession was a prelude to Sunday's annual fiesta in Bocaue, a town of 80,000 people located 20 kilometres north of Manila.

The revelry began to get out of hand when up to 500 people crammed atop the barge, which had a pagoda-shaped wooden deck lashed to outriggers, and was topped by a large cross.

Mayor De La Cruz said in a radio interview that a fireworks display apparently caused children aboard to move toward one side to get a better view of the spectacle.

When the barge started taking in water, the passengers panicked and rushed in the other direction, sending the vessel down and splitting the platform. Most of the

dead were women and children who had no chance to swim to safety.

"It happened so fast they didn't have a chance to get out," said 18-year-old Narciso Yacup, who lost several friends in the accident.

Eight-year old Jennifer Cruz said she managed to survive by holding on to the top of the pagoda, then swimming to safety. But her best friend, who was also on the barge, died.

"Apparently there was overloading and the structure was toppled. The boats then sank, and more or less 200 were rescued or were able to swim ashore," provincial Governor Roberto Pagdanganan said.

He said 80 survivors were rushed to hospitals, where some expired.

The worst peacetime maritime disaster in history occurred in the Philippines in December 1987, when an oil tanker collided with the Dona Paz ferry, igniting an inferno that left an estimated 3,000 people dead.



A rescuer carries the body of a child recovered by frogmen from the bottom of the river after an overloaded boat capsized during a religious procession on the Bulo river in Bocaue town north of Manila (AFP photo)

S. Africans mostly welcome all-race vote

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africans eager for a clear signal their country was firmly on the track to democracy after 350 years of white domination welcomed Saturday the setting of the date for the first all-race elections.

Nineteen of the 26 parties negotiating a transition to democracy agreed Friday the vote would be held on April 27 next year.

South Africans, impatient for change hailed the decision, which paved the way for a transitional authority to be in place as early as next month and the lifting of the last financial sanctions imposed on South Africa during the apartheid era.

"It is a decision in the national interest and should therefore enjoy widespread public understanding," said an editorial in the Johannesburg daily newspaper, The Star.

"Negotiations... are worth the name only if the participants are prepared seriously to counteract fundamental compromises."

The conservative newspaper, The Citizen, said the confirmation of the election date would boost the credibility of the country's two main political players — the white minority government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

South African President F.W. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela separately met President Bill Clinton Friday in Washington amid optimism that economic sanctions against their country will soon be lifted.

A White House statement said the talks focused on the process of democratic reform in South Africa and Mr. Clinton pledged the United States would be "a full partner in building democracy in South Africa."

Mr. Clinton also said the United States would press for a commitment at next week's Group of Seven summit in Tokyo "to reintegrate South Africa into the world economy with agreement on non-racial democracy," the White House said.

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Search finds no clues to missing newspaper carrier

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) — An 11-year-old newspaper delivery girl remained missing despite a massive search mounted after she was forced into a car, police said. A search by up to 1,500 people produced no leads to the whereabouts of Jeralee Underwood. Underwood was collecting money from Idaho State Journal customers Tuesday evening when a witness saw her being forced into a car by a stocky, medium-height man in his 30s. Police chief Jim Denham organised a foot-by-foot search Thursday along roads in an area of more than 600 square miles (960 square kilometres). A few items of clothing turned up, but relatives said they didn't belong to the girl. Although leads have been few, Chief Denham said investigators have found that the abductor was probably in the Pocatello area for several days before the kidnapping. He would not elaborate. The city has been blanketed with fliers displaying Jeralee's picture and a description of the suspect. A reward fund reached \$15,000.

Court backs French pretender's family over heirlooms

PARIS (AFP) — The Paris appeal court has upheld an earlier court ruling barring the Comte de Paris Henri d'Orleans, pretender to the French throne, from auctioning off family heirlooms, effectively validating an injunction by his family. Five of the count's nine surviving children launched a court action to prevent their father from selling furniture and jewellery, including the sapphire and diamond diadem that belonged to Queen Marie-Amelie, wife of Louis Philippe. The auction was to have been held this weekend by Sotheby's in Monaco and proceeds were to have gone to the St. Louis Foundation, which maintains the Chateau d'Amboise, the ancestral home. The children argued that the items up for sale were heirlooms and the count did not have the right to sell them. A judge decided in favour of the family on June 17, a decision which the count's lawyers tried unsuccessfully to reverse this week.

Customs agents have dead snakes in weird drug case

MIAMI (R) — An attempt to smuggle drugs in the belly of a boa constrictor has left U.S. federal agents with 80 pounds (36kg) of cocaine and 312 dead snakes. U.S. Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration officials said the case began early Tuesday, when customs inspectors spotted a peculiar bulge in one of 312 boa constrictors imported here from Colombia in 41 boxes. They X-rayed the suspicious serpent, and then called on Department of Fish and Wildlife agents for assistance in removing what turned out to be two condoms filled with cocaine. Authorities, who have seen drugs smuggled through south Florida in all manner of vessels, said this is a first. "This is the first snake case that I'm aware of," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Dan Gelber. Federal agents tracked the shipment of four- and five-foot-long snakes, which a man picked up from customs and drove in a van to an apartment complex north of Miami. On Wednesday afternoon, the agents decided to check on the reptiles. They found 202 of the snakes dead. Cocaine was discovered in many of the dead snakes. Law enforcement agents did not comment on the whereabouts of the van driver, and said the case was still being investigated.

Spanish police bust illegal betting ring

BENIDORM, Spain (AFP) — Spanish police announced their break-up of an illegal, secret betting network in the sea-side resort of Benidorm, south-east Spain. The authorities had long been aware of the premises where numerous Britons gathered to place bets on sports events in the United Kingdom. Police were also able to discover other identical betting set-ups linked to British race-courses, greyhound stadia, boxing halls and, by their account, "football" organisations. During the operation they confiscated 13 television sets, nine decoders, a ticket system, result boards, money and account books.

Japanese families getting smaller

TOKYO (AFP) — The average size of Japanese families has slipped below three for the first time since World War II, according to a government estimate. The average family was made up of 2.99 persons, down 0.05 from a year earlier, said citing a survey of some 250,000 households in June last year.

Clashes erupt in Sarajevo, central Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Mortar and rocket fire erupted in Sarajevo Saturday while in central Bosnia both Serb and Croat fighters kept pressure on the Muslim army.

In the besieged Bosnian capital, artillery fire began at about 430 local time and gained in ferocity as the morning went on. Muslim-run radio claimed people had been killed and wounded but there was no immediate confirmation.

As dawn broke, reporters looking out across the battered city saw the roof of the Holiday Inn and not see any shells landing in the city. Much of the fire seemed to be coming from Muslim-led government positions in the town centre.

Sarajevo Radio said there was shelling in Vogosca, an industrial suburb to the north. It commands an important road junction. The radio reported shelling in the Step and Dobrinja districts which flank Sarajevo's vital airport road. The Bosnian Serb news agency said Serb-held suburbs of Vogosca, Rajlovac, Ilidza and Nadzarici were under Muslim snail.

U.N. military sources said Croats and Muslims traded mortar and rocket fire around the central Bosnian villages of Novi Travnik and Dolac early Saturday.

Mortar and heavy machinegun fire could be heard coming from hills close to Vitez, base of U.N. British peacekeepers.

Croatian Radio quoted Bosnian Croat forces as saying that remnants of Muslim-led government troops were "hiding" in the town of Zepce, 70 kilometres north of Sarajevo.

Croats took the central Bosnian town after several days of fighting, U.N. military sources said.

The sources said Bosnian Serbs and Croats had surrounded Maglaj, 80 kilometres north of the capital and until a few days ago part of a salient surrounded by Serb-held territory that dominates supply routes to Sarajevo.

Up to 10,000 Muslim refugees were streaming south from the Maglaj area. Their numbers were swelling fast, U.N. staff said.

The encirclement of Maglaj is a major setback for the Muslim-led

Bosnian army in its battle to preserve the central region as a Muslim heartland, and it follows on the heels of a Serb and Croat proposal for the three-way partition of Bosnia.

The area around Maglaj contains at least 100,000 people. Six similar Muslim enclaves surrounded by Serb forces in Bosnia have been declared "safe areas" by the U.N. Security Council, but still come under frequent attack.

Late Friday U.N. officials said they were considering evacuating Srebrenica, the first "safe area" to be declared this spring, because protecting its 49,000 inhabitants and getting them food, water and shelter was proving impossible.

Fighting has diminished around the eastern Muslim enclave since the U.N. deployed several hundred Canadian peacekeepers there but the surrounding Serbs have cut off water supplies, refused to allow tents into the town and blocked aid convoys.

The Srebrenica Muslims would be most likely to go to Tuzla, another crowded enclave dependent on U.N. relief handouts.

The safe haven concept is a cornerstone of Western policy and countries are promising extra U.N. troops and air support — moves which fall short of the lifting of the arms embargo the Muslims have demanded for so long.

Another eastern Muslim pocket, Gorazde, was hit by Serb gunners for a second day Friday and a convoy of 800 tonnes of relief supplies was stopped for the sixth straight day from entering the town, U.N. officials said.

Saturday marked the first anniversary of the U.N. mercy airlift to Sarajevo, a lifeline to a city that has been besieged by rebel Serbs since Bosnia declared its independence from former Yugoslavia in April 1992.

A U.N. Security Council resolution this week to exempt the heavily outgunned Muslims from an arms embargo on former Yugoslavia won U.S. support but failed to be adopted when European countries, Russia and China all abstained.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Gonzalez to form new government

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's outgoing Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez was invited by King Juan Carlos to form his country's new government, parliamentary Speaker Felix Pons said Saturday. The parliamentary debate and vote on the new formation takes place on July 8 and 9, Mr. Pons said. To win approval from a majority of deputies on a first-round vote, Mr. Gonzalez, whose Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) lost its absolute majority in the June 6 general elections, winning 159 seats out of 350, needs support from the Catalan and Basque nationalist parties, who took 17 and five seats respectively. Spokesmen said Friday that both nationalist parties would vote in favour of Mr. Gonzalez's nomination. But the Catalans last week declined the PSOE leader's invitation to join a coalition government. Mr. Gonzalez said Friday the new government would be dominated by Socialists and include more women, but that he had not discounted a ministerial role for the Basque nationalists.

Pakistan offers 5,000 troops for Bosnia

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Saturday it has offered a 5,000-strong army brigade to join U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters the Pakistani offer was in response to an appeal by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for a contribution of troops. He would not say when the Pakistani troops would leave, but said it would be some time after a foreign ministers' meeting of 14 Islamic countries in Islamabad for July 12-13. The meeting would discuss the U.N. secretary-general's appeal and consider the provision of finances and heavy equipment for the troops to be sent to Bosnia, he said.

Khmer Rouge return to Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Four Khmer Rouge guerrillas Saturday reopened the compound their group hastily abandoned in April, when it claimed to fear for the safety of its personnel. The men, who declined to identify themselves except to say they were security guards, said they would restore the yellow-walled compound — now overgrown with bushes and weeds — so Khmer Rouge leaders could move in, probably sometime next week. The four arrived in the wake of a visit by senior Khmer Rouge officials, who held talks Thursday and Friday with officials of the U.N. mission and members of other Cambodian factions. The compound is on the grounds of the royal palace but separate from the quarters of head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Prince Sihanouk opened the palace grounds to the Khmer Rouge to protect them after the group's president, Chieu Samphan, was attacked at his residence upon his return to Phnom Penh in 1991.

Nigeria's SDP spurns new poll call

LAGOS (AFP) — The prospects for a peaceful transition from military to civilian rule suffered a setback following the rejection by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of General Ibrahim Babangida's call for a new election to replace the poll he annulled last month. "We are opposed to a fresh election and this we told General Babangida emphatically Friday at Abuja when he met officials of the two parties" which contested the June 12 election, the official SDP spokesman R. Amos Idakula, told AFP. Gen. Babangida told representatives of the two parties that the government would not go back on its decision to organise a fresh election. Friday's meeting was adjourned until Monday after SDP representatives asked for time to consult on the issue. Mr. Idakula said, National SDP officials were to meet Sunday at Benin City, capital of the southern Edo state, where they would take a "final decision," on whether to go for a fresh election or to boycott and hold out for the result — so far unannounced — of the June 12 election, he added.

N. Korea urges U.S. sincerity in talks

PEKING (AFP) — North Korea said Saturday it wants to normalise ties with the United States, but warned that upcoming talks would fail unless Washington guaranteed fair nuclear inspections on the Korean peninsula. "We want normalised relations," North Korean Ambassador to China Chu Chang-Jun told a press conference. "It is not necessary that our country and the United States forever exist in an atmosphere of hostility." A second round of U.S.-North Korean talks are scheduled to open July 14 in Geneva, and Mr. Chu called on Washington to "approach the talks with sincerity." President Bill Clinton strongly warned North Korea Friday against developing nuclear weapons and called the prospect "our biggest nightmare," the Washington Post reported Saturday. Mr. Clinton did not spell out what actions the United States might take to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons but said his administration would be "very firm...extremely tough." "This is not something we can afford to let happen," the paper quoted him as telling a lunch meeting with journalists.

Germany ready to join U.N. Council

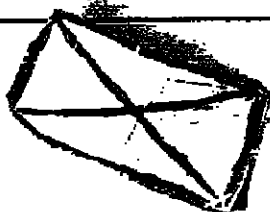
UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Germany is ready to assume the responsibilities which permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council entail, its U.N. mission said in statement Friday. "The changed international situation and the steadily increasing membership of the United Nations necessitate reconsideration of the present composition of the Security Council," said the statement. The German comment was in response to a December 1992 General Assembly resolution that asked members to submit comments on increasing the number of permanent members of the Security Council. At present only China, France, Britain, Russia and the United States are permanent members of the Council. The United States has said it would fully support Germany and Japan joining. France and Britain have said they were prepared to discuss an increase. China supports expansion but remains cautious.

3 dead as Cubans fire on U.S. launch

HAVANA (R) — Three people were killed and one wounded when Cuban frontier guards fired on a U.S.-registered motorboat north of the small fishing village of Cofimbar near Havana, local news reports said Friday. Cuban authorities said the boat, Midnight Express, violated Cuban territorial waters Thursday night as it was trying to pick up a group of Cuban news agency reporters. It said Cuba had sent a note to the U.S. government advising it of the incident. The note blamed U.S. policy for encouraging the illegal departure of Cubans for the United States and charged that Cubans who want to emigrate legally are prevented "by limitations imposed by American authorities."

Sharif under pressure to hold elections

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's powerful army is nudging Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to call a general election, as it plays a more assertive role in ending a worsening political crisis, officials and political sources said Saturday. "Holding an election is one of the options being considered now," said a ranking government official who did not want to be named. Army chief General Abdul Waheed presented the election proposal to Mr. Sharif after a meeting of the army top brass in nearby Rawalpindi late Thursday, sources said. Military officials confirmed that "crucial national issues" were discussed at the corps commanders' meeting but would not give any further details. They also declined to confirm or deny reports that Mr. Sharif was under pressure to call an election from the army, which has remained neutral until now in the power struggle between him and President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.



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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1993 9

European Basketball Championship

Russia upset Croatia, Germany beat Greece to reach final

MUNICH (AP) — Russia upset Croatia Friday to gain the final of the European Basketball Championship. The night ended with clashes between Greek fans and German police.

Guard Sergei Bazarevich tore Croatia apart with 25 points and led Russia to an 84-76 victory over the Olympic silver medalist.

Germany, its bigger men dominating the boards, edged Greece 76-73 to reach the final for the first time.

Disappointed Greek fans, grouped in one section of the arena, threw a few chairs into the empty rows below them and got into scuffles with guards from a private security service and police.

Some of the guards reacted by kicking fans and throwing them to the ground.

Police then started chasing fans through the stands and the halls of the arena, beating them as they caught up with them. Seven fans were arrested.

Some guards tried to prevent television cameramen from filming the scenes, and at least one Greek photographer had

his cameras thrown to the ground.

Croatia, highly favoured for the gold medal, had won all seven of its previous games in the tournament.

But its star Dino Radja, the center-forward who is heading to the Boston Celtics in the National Basketball Association, had a horrid night, finishing with 10 points and six rebounds in 29:10 minutes of play.

Although Croatia boasts probably the best centers in Europe, they faded against a tough Russian defence. Stojko Vrankovic, the 2.17-metre (7-foot, 1 1/2 inch) centre who spent a season with the Celtics, finished with four points and one rebound.

Balkan sympathies and rivalries were reflected in the atmosphere in Munich's Olympic hall.

Several hundred noisy Greek fans, waiting for their team's game with Germany, threw their support behind the Russian team. They shouted "Russia, Russia" in Russian, but also waved Serbian flags and chanted "Serbia, Serbia" to annoy Croatian fans.

Croatian fans repaid them by cheering for Germany.

Radja was held to two points in the first half, in which Russia shot 74 per cent from the field, led by Bazarevich, who had 18 points in 17:45 minutes on the court.

In a battle of the two tallest teams in the tournament, it was Bazarevich, at 1.90 metres (6-2, 3/4) one of the shortest men on court, who was the giant.

Croatia came into the tournament severely handicapped by the death of its captain and top scorer Drazen Petrovic in a car accident in Germany last month. And when star forward Toni Kukoc pulled out because of tonsillitis, Croatia was left without two of its key players.

"We've had 20 matches in 32 days, and my players were all tired," Croatian coach Mirko Novosel said. "Our centres were particularly exhausted and did not play at their normal level."

Greece also ran into centre trouble, with only one experienced centre, 2.13-metre (6-11 3/4) Panagitis Fasoulas, on its roster, the Greeks found themselves trailing the bigger Ger-

mans early in the game.

When Fasoulas fouled out with 7:28 left, Germany went up 59-51 and the game was decided. Fasoulas had only one point and seven rebounds.

Centre Christian Welp led Germany with 15 points and seven rebounds. Forward Fanis Christodolou had 23 points for Greece.

"I only believed in our victory 30 seconds before the end because the Greeks are dangerous until the last second," said Welp, whose jumper at the buzzer of overtime gave Germany a quarter-final victory over Spain. Germany's previous best at the European Championships was fifth place in 1987, also at home.

Earlier, in the most remarkable individual performance of the tournament, guard Aivar Kuusmaa scored 40 points, including nine three-pointers, to pace Estonia to a 99-91 victory over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The victory sent Estonia into the playoff for fifth place against Spain, which beat France 95-83.

The top five finishers qualify for next year's World Championship in Toronto, Canada.

WIMBLEDON FINALS

Sampras, Courier defy odds

WIMBLEDON (Agencies) — One nearly skipped the tournament with a bad shoulder. The other nearly got booted out half-way through.

Yet, Pete Sampras and Jim Courier have outlasted all the other men to land in the Wimbledon final, setting up an all-American duel Sunday on the fourth of July. Also at stake will be the No. 1 ranking, which Courier can reclaim from Sampras with a victory.

Although they are the world's top-ranked players, neither Sampras nor Courier was necessarily expected to get this far.

For one thing, the top-seeded Sampras was suffering from an inflamed tendon in his right shoulder and considered withdrawing on the eve of the tournament.

"The Wednesday and Thursday before this event started I really had my doubts about playing it up and got four or five hours of treatment to give myself the best chance to play here," Sampras said after his 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-4 semifinal win Friday over Boris Becker of Germany.

The shoulder acted up times in earlier matches, but Sampras showed no effects of the injury in his match against Becker. He hit 12 aces and served at an average speed of 113 mph (181 kph), with a high of 124 mph (198 kph).

"I didn't feel any pain out there today," Sampras said. "I know now I'm going to be fine for Sunday. As things turned out, it's been feeling pretty strong for the most part."

Courier, the No. 3 seed who overcame Sweden Stefan Edberg 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals, was fortunate to be playing the second week.

During his third-round match last Saturday against Jason Stoltenberg, chair umpire Jeremy Shales was ready to default Courier for what he considered abusive language. Only the intervention of tournament referee Alan Mills kept Courier from being kicked out.

"The umpire thought I said something directed at him, which I didn't, and he reacted to default me, which was to say the least, I think, an overreaction," Courier said. "Luckily Alan came out on the court and straightened things out."

Courier swore out loud after an



Steffi Graf

the majors that I don't have, and I would very much like to have it."

Said Sampras, "It would mean a lot, a great deal. It would be huge for me."

Becker and Edberg, the fallen champions with five Wimbledon titles between them, took their defeats in stride.

"I'm not far away from the best," Becker said. "To lose to Pete is no disgrace."

"We're not finished yet," Edberg said. "Boris and I, we'll be back."

Bomb alert at Wimbledon

The Wimbledon tennis complex was evacuated and then searched by police Saturday, after a bomb alert just hours before the women's final between Steffi Graf and Jana Novotna.

Police combed the area mid-morning, just half an hour before the doors were due to open to the public, after an anonymous

Andrew Foster (Britain) 6-1, 6-2, 7-6; beat Andre Agassi (U.S.) 6-2, 6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-4; beat Boris Becker (Germany) 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Playing style: Right-hander, recognised as having a game which adapts well to any surface.

Personal: Born in Washington D.C., on August 12, 1971. Now lives in Tampa, Florida, 1.85 metres tall. Began playing tennis at the age of seven, grew up idolising Rod Laver. Entered the top 100 at the age of 17 and became the youngest ever winner of U.S. Open in 1990 at age of 19 years, 28 days. Coached by Tim Gullikson since January 1992. He was beaten in the final of the U.S. Open last September by Stefan Edberg. Succeeded compatriot Courier as world number one in March. Parents Georgia and Sam prefer not to watch him play often as it makes them nervous. Older sister Stella won American college doubles title while at UCLA in 1988.

Having been handed a lifetime line in her 20th Grand Slam final, Graf was not about to spurn it. She held her serve to love and brought proceedings to a close with a smash off a Novotna lod that just was not good enough.

It has Graf's third consecutive win at Wimbledon and her 13th Grand Slam title. Novotna had a chance to clinch the first set tiebreak but Graf produced an ace then a service winner to get to 7-6 and she clinched it with a superb backhand pass cross court.

Having taken the set, Graf let her concentration slip and allowed Novotna back into it, with a string of extraordinary forehand errors in the second set.

Novotna, who had not been as free flowing in the first set as she had been in the semi-final defeat of Martina Navratilova, found her rhythm

Jim Courier (U.S.) Age: 22 Seeded: Three Career prize money: \$6.16 million Singles titles: Four Grand Slam titles, 13 overall Coaches: Jose Higueras and Brad Stine Grand Slam titles: 1992 and 1993 Australian Open, 1991 and 1992 French Open.

Route to final: Beat Gianluca Pozzi (Italy) 6-0, 7-5, 6-4; beat Ronald Agener (Haiti) 7-5, 6-1, 7-6; beat Jason Stoltenberg (Australia) 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4; beat Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5, 6-4; beat Todd Martin (U.S.) 6-2, 7-6, 6-3; beat Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.

Playing style: Right-hander, one of the hardest hitters in the game, has benefited from dry weather at Wimbledon which has caused ball to bounce higher off harder-than-average surface.

The alert lasted more than an hour before police gave the all clear.

Short biographies of Pete Sampras and Jim Courier, the Wimbledon men's tennis finalists Sunday:

Pete Sampras (U.S.) Age: 21 Seeded: One Career prize money: \$7.89 million Singles titles: One Grand Slam title, 17 overall Coach: Tim Gullikson Grand Slam title: 1990 U.S. Open.

Route to final: Beat Neil Borwick (Australia) 6-7, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3; beat Jamie Morgan (Australia); 6-4, 7-6, 6-4; beat Byron Black (Zimbabwe) 6-4, 6-1, 6-1; beat

Graf wins 5th title

LONDON (AFP) — Steffi Graf came back from the brink of defeat to beat Jana Novotna and claim her fifth Wimbledon title in the 100th ladies singles final Saturday.

The German top seed trailed by 1-4 and two service breaks in the final set before taking full advantage of an extraordinary collapse by her opponent to win 7-6, 1-6, 6-4 in two hours and 14 minutes.

Novotna, the eighth seed from the Czech Republic, seemed to be heading for her first Grand Slam title as she served for 5-1 and then 5-3 leads in the final set.

But at the crucial moments she simply did not have the inner belief to match the huge potential she had demonstrated throughout the tournament.

As she walked up to receive her runners up prize from the Duchess of Kent, Novotna was in floods of tears, fully aware that she had thrown it all away herself.

Serving with the new balls she got to 4-1 and 40-30 but double faulted at the point when she could have killed her opponent off. Ultimately she was made to pay.

Another golden opportunity went begging in the next game when she got to 15-40 on Graf's service. But the German saved the first with an ace and on the second forced Novotna to volley into the net with a brave backhand down the line.

By then it was obvious that Novotna was cracking and in her next service game, three double faults allowed Graf to pull level at 4-4.

Having been handed a lifetime line in her 20th Grand Slam final, Graf was not about to spurn it. She held her serve to love and brought proceedings to a close with a smash off a Novotna lod that just was not good enough.

It has Graf's third consecutive win at Wimbledon and her 13th Grand Slam title. Novotna had a chance to clinch the first set tiebreak but Graf produced an ace then a service winner to get to 7-6 and she clinched it with a superb backhand pass cross court.

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Novotna, who had not been as free flowing in the first set as she had been in the semi-final defeat of Martina Navratilova, found her rhythm

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indurain goes for three in a row

PARIS (AP) — Spaniard Miguel Indurain will have the No. 1 on his back as he goes for a three-peat in the Tour de France. Indurain, as the two-time defending champion, starts with the yellow jersey and a No. 1 in the opening prologue. The short 6.8-kilometre (4.2-mile) sprint around Puy Du Foy in western France Saturday is a time trial before the real racing starts Sunday with the first leg of 215 kilometres (134 miles).

Hill on Pole for French Grand Prix

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Briton Damon Hill secured the first pole position of his Formula One racing career Saturday when he outqualified Williams team mate Alain Prost at the French Grand Prix. Hill ended Prost's unbroken record run of seven successive poles with a fastest lap of one minute 14.382 seconds early in the final qualifying session on his first quick run.

Christie throws down a challenge

EDINBURG (AFP) — Olympic champion Linford Christie turned up the heat on his World Championship rivals with a stunning victory at the Meadowbank Stadium Friday. Christie ran his fastest-ever 100 metres in Britain in the international with the USA. He stormed through from behind to edge out evergreen Calvin Smith in a photo finish in 10.06 secs. The time equalled the UK all-comers record set by American Mel Lattany in 1981 and equalled by the non-disgraced Ben Johnson in 1986. Britain's other European Cup winners — David Grindley, Rob Denmark and Sally Gunnell — also maintained the winning touch.

AC Milan get two match ban

ROME (AFP) — AC Milan were banned Friday from using their San Siro stadium for two home matches after clashes between their fans and those of Sampdoria. Fights erupted after two trainloads of fans from the rival sides were stopped at a signal near Alessandria June 6, the final day of the season. Twenty people were injured before police could restore order.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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FRIENDLY PERSUASION

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH			
♠ J 6 3			
♥ Q 10 7 4			
♦ Q 9 8			
♣ A 8 4			
WEST			
♠ K Q 5 4			
♥ J 9 8			
♦ J 5 3 2			
♣ K 7 3 2			
EAST			
♠ 9 7 2			
♥ K Q 7 6 4			
♦ J 10 6			
♣ A 10 8			
♥ A K 8 5 3 2			
♦ 10			
♣ Q 8 5			

The bidding: Jack of ♠. There are some suit combinations which, if you have to broach them yourself, offer little chance of producing a trick. However, if the opponents have to start the suit, a trick is guaranteed. The simplest case is where you hold Q x x facing J x x. Play this holding yourself and you will score a trick only if one opponent has both the ace and king; but if the enemy plays it, there's a sure trick. The art is in enlisting the op-

position to aid your cause. Watch the play unfold on this hand from the recent Summer North American Championships in Toronto.

North's jump to three hearts was a limit raise, showing 10 to 12 points and at least four-card support. The sixth trump made South's acceptance automatic.

There are two chances for the contract. If the king of clubs is with East, declarer can lose no more than two spade tricks and a club. If the defenders can be made to attack spades, declarer will lose no more than two clubs and a spade—provided the groundwork is carefully laid.

That makes the play simple. Win the trump lead, cash the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Cross to the queen of trumps, drawing the last trump, and ruff another diamond. Now cash the ace of clubs and lead a club to the queen.

West wins with the king and can exit safely with a club, but the desired end position has been reached. In with the jack of clubs, East can lead a spade with impunity, but when West wins the endplay is complete. West must either return a spade, solving declarer's problem in that suit, or yield a ruff-alf. Either way, the contract costs home.

Police grill Marseille official again

MARSEILLE (R) — French police questioned Marseille's general secretary for a second day on Saturday over his role in allegations of bribery of Valenciennes players by the European champions.

Justice Minister Pierre Mehaugier took the unusual step of issuing a statement expressing confidence in the conduct of the investigation after angry criticism by Marseille Chairman Bernard Tapie.

Police interrogated Jean-Pierre Bernes late into the night until a police doctor ordered a halt at 3 a.m. (0100 GMT), ruling that he was no longer in a fit state to be questioned.

Bernes, treated last week for depression, was then taken to a hospital, where he spent five hours. But he was taken back to police headquarters for further questioning Saturday morning.

Valenciennes players who have admitted accepting bribes named Bernes, who has described himself as Tapie's "eyes and ears," as their contact man, along with Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie.

Two Valenciennes players — Christophe Robert and Jorge Burruchaga — have been placed under investigation for taking bribes, along with Robert's wife, an alleged accomplice.

Eydelie has been placed under investigation for bribery. He is accused of handing over a 250,000 franc (\$44,000) bribe.

Eydelie's lawyer counter-attacked Saturday charging that a key piece of evidence — an ite-

missed bill of telephone calls from Marseille's pre-match hotel — was a fake.

Marseille vice-president Jean-Louis Leveau accused the police of harassing Bernes and said there was a campaign to discredit Tapie, an outspoken businessman-turned-politician.

"I'm not worried about my club because I know this mountain will turn out to be a molehill, but it's true that I am worried when I see what is happening to Jean-Pierre Bernes," Leveau told Reuters at the club's training retreat in Font-Romeu.

"As far as I know, we're no longer living in the age of torture, and Jean-Pierre has always repeated the same thing, the truth," he said.

"In fact, this whole affair is an indirect attack on Bernard Tapie which is really starting to look like a bad episode of Dallas," Leveau said.

A justice ministry statement said Mehaugier "wishes to express his confidence in the magistrates and the prosecutors in charge of this case... the minister intends to allow justice to take its course until the whole truth is known."

Tapie apologised Friday night for accusing a French agency newspaper, the Marseille chairman had said the case was being orchestrated by a journalist, a politician and the public prosecutor.

Ruggeri doubtful for Copa America final

GUAYAQUIL Ecuador (R) — Oscar Ruggeri, the Argentina captain who lifted the Copa America trophy two years ago in Chile, is extremely doubtful for the final against Mexico Sunday.

Coach Alfio Basile would not commit himself Friday as to the chances of Ruggeri, who sprained two leg muscles during the semi-final against Colombia Thursday, facing the Mexicans at Guayaquil's monumental stadium.

The loss will be a severe blow to the Argentines, whose inspirational centre-back coaxed them through their first two Group C games, a pale 1-0 win over Bolivia and a fortunate 1-1 draw with the Mexicans in which Ruggeri scored the equaliser.

It will no doubt also be a blow to the 31-year-old Ruggeri who said earlier in the tournament: "I'm determined to retain the trophy as it is probably my last Copa America."

Ruggeri could miss another duel with Mexico's skipper and

centre forward Hugo Sanchez, his team mate at Mexican club America and formerly for one season at Real Madrid.

The defence coped well enough in the second half against Colombia without Ruggeri, who with 79 caps is just two short of equalling Diego Maradona's Argentine record.

The final will be a tough test for central defenders Jorge Borelli and Fernando Caceres, who have just six internationals between them.

Sevilla's Diego Simeone is also nursing a hard knock on the knee and fellow midfielder Gustavo Zapata a sprained ankle after a tough, foul-riddled clash with the Colombians which ended 0-0, with Argentina going through on penalties.

Mexico has no injury worries after their 2-0 semifinal triumph over hosts Ecuador in a down-pour in Quito Wednesday that put them in the final in their first Copa America.



The message behind World No. 1, Pete Sampras seems to spell out his mood during his matches at Wimbledon (AFP photo)

error during Friday's match. He wasn't warned by the umpire, but he got into a heated exchange later with a British reporter who suggested his parents would be ashamed at his language.

"Keep your mouth shut, all right?" Courier said when the journalist persisted.

Now, for the first time since John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors for the title in 1984, two Americans will play in the final.

"I've been watching Wimbledon finals for as long as I can remember," Courier said, "so it's particularly special for me to be playing another yank on the fourth of July. I certainly never expected to do it."

Sampras won the U.S. Open in 1990, while Courier has won the French Open and Australian Open twice each. But both men said they would treasure a Wimbledon title.

"I wouldn't give all four of them away to have this one, but it would certainly be extremely special," Courier said. "It's one of

phone call. A suspect package was found in the stands surrounding the central court.

Graf, who was exercising in a nearby court with coach Heinz Gunthardt, had to be moved further away.

The alert lasted more than an hour before police gave the all clear.

Short biographies of Pete Sampras and Jim Courier, the Wimbledon men's tennis finalists Sunday:

Pete Sampras (U.S.) Age: 21 Seeded: One Career prize money: \$7.89 million Singles titles: One Grand Slam title, 17 overall Coach: Tim Gullikson Grand Slam title: 1990 U.S. Open.

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Iraqi newspapers forecast quick return to oil market

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi newspapers forecast a quick return to world oil markets in commentaries on Saturday ahead of talks with the United Nations.

"Reports confirm that Iraq will soon return to the oil market," Al Iraq, a newspaper published by pro-government Kurdish factions, said in a front-page headline.

In a one-paragraph comment it noted that oil prices fell on international markets after reports that Iraq was ready to strike a deal with the U.N. to resume oil exports blocked since the Gulf crisis erupted in 1990.

The comments were the first in Iraqi media on the talks beginning Wednesday. The press has tended to dampen high expectations in previous negotiations.

Iraqi analysts said the very fact that they published foreign reports predicting a return to the market pointed to official endorsement of the comments.

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said Iraq would be able to export seven million barrels a day by 1996.

"America fears putting all its eggs in the Saudi oil basket because of the escalating Islamic opposition there," said the newspaper, stressing that the world economy needed Iraqi oil.

It added that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would have to boost production to 38 million barrels a day by the year 2000 to meet world demand.

Iraq has long rejected U.N. terms for a partial, supervised resumption of exports to pay for humanitarian needs and 1991 Gulf war ceasefire obligations.

The government said in the past the U.N. conditions, if accepted would infringe on Bag-

dad's sovereignty. It has said it would rather Iraq go hungry than accept "humiliating terms."

Al Iraq noted that there had been a "new decline in oil prices after reports indicating that Iraq will soon return to the (oil) market."

It also reported that Iraq "was close to an accord with the United Nations on resuming its oil sales."

It was apparently referring to the sharp fall this week in the price of Brent North Sea crude oil which threatened to break the \$17 a barrel level amid what international dealers said were rumours that the U.N. might partially lift its embargo on Iraqi oil sales.

The commentary, according to a Western diplomat in Baghdad, reflects Iraq's wish to secure an agreement in the talks set to open Wednesday in New York between Iraq and U.N. officials.

Iraqi oil sales have been under an embargo since Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

On Thursday the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said Washington would not oppose a partial lifting of the oil embargo on Iraq.

Iraqi oil reserves rank second in the world after Saudi Arabia and are estimated by Baghdad at 110 billion barrels.

The Iraqi dinar continued its gain against the U.S. dollar as the clock ticked towards Wednesday's meeting in New York — the first in a year to negotiate a resumption of oil exports.

The dollar on the widely-used black market was worth 60 Iraqi dinars on Saturday down from 87 Thursday.

Prices of basic commodities in Shorjar, Baghdad's main commercial market, fell significantly

as shoppers rushed to take advantage of lower prices.

"It seems it is serious this time," said one trader, referring to dashed expectations during previous negotiations with the U.N.

"The market is full of rumours. Some say Iraq and America have already agreed and oil is on its way to terminals," another said.

Traders complained that the expectation of better times was pushing food prices below cost.

A tray of 30 eggs which sold for 90 dinars on Sunday was down to 55 while the price of a 50-kilo sack of flour fell to 1,200 dinars from 700.

In Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq a Kurdish official meanwhile told AFP that the Baghdad authorities must hand over one third of any oil sold as part of a possible agreement with the United Nations.

Roj Nuri, a deputy prime minister in the Kurdish "government" formed last year in defiance of Baghdad, said: "We are actually responsible for one third of Iraq."

"Here in our region we pay all the administration costs, the salaries of teachers, we are running the hospitals and so on. We are part of Iraq but not of the Iraqi government," Nuri said.

He charged that an Iraqi-imposed blockade of Kurdish regions prevented food and medicine from reaching the Kurds.

"So we should get a third of the revenues (from possible oil sales) directly for our needs here in the region," he said.

Kurdish leaders also expressed hope that all Iraqi oil sales would be strictly controlled by the United Nations to ensure that the needs of the Kurdish people would be guaranteed.



An Italian U.N. soldier watches the "green line" separating Mogadishu, the Somali capital (AFP photo)

Aided forces set up blockades; Albright lambasts warlords

U.S. envoy says relief success overlooked

MOGADISHU (Agencies) —

Somali rebels loyal to warlord Mohammed Farah Aided set up roadblocks Saturday on several roads in an area of Mogadishu where three Italian soldiers were killed during a U.N. weapons hunt the day before.

The rough-and-ready roadblocks made of corrugated iron and scrap metal, stones and barbed wire were topped by the white and blue Somali flag favoured by General Aided's supporters.

Youths brandishing AK-47 assault rifles stood guard over roadblocks of twisted metal after driving back 800 Italian U.N. troops from the area on Friday, killing three and wounding 30.

Vans loaded with passengers were passing through unhindered, while young people were stripping the Italian military vehicle that was destroyed in Friday's fighting which also, according to a spokesman for Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance, left some 20 Somali dead.

The Italian contingent of the United Nations force has withdrawn from the moment from this impoverished district of Mogadishu close to a former demarcation line which has remained a stronghold of resistance to operations of the U.N. force in Somalia.

Around 30 Italian troops were also wounded as they came under fire while conducting house-to-house searches in the area according to a U.N. spokesman speaking Saturday.

Helicopters were overflying the district to evaluate the situation

there, the spokesman said.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations accused warlords of wrecking Somalia and attempts to rebuild it.

"The warlords had better get their act together," Madeleine Albright told reporters. "They are doing nothing to help their country."

On a lightning visit to Somalia, Ms. Albright visited the troubled southern port of Kismayu then flew to Mogadishu where she was holding talks with senior officials of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

She visited the UNOSOM compound on the outskirts of south Mogadishu, where U.N. officials took refuge after the June 5 killing of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers which provoked a military clampdown on Gen. Aided.

Ms. Albright, who will report to the Security Council, accused the media of paying too much attention to the violence in south Mogadishu, which has killed 34 U.N. troops in 28 days and wounded more than 100. Dozens of Somalis have died.

Not enough attention was given to U.N. efforts to rebuild the political system or infrastructure of vast areas of Somalia beyond the shell-shocked capital, she said.

She had no meetings scheduled outside the UNOSOM compound, which lies at one end of October 2.

U.N. spokeswoman David Stockwell said U.N. troops would be sent to tear down the barriers.

cadres set up by Aided forces but declined to say when. He said they were covered by snipers.

Supporters of Gen. Aided said they would never surrender the arms they used to ambush the Italians until the U.N. arrest warrant for him was dropped.

"We will fight as long as they hunt for Aided," said Ali Mohammad Edmundo, head of the youth wing of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA).

The U.N. issued his arrest warrant on June 17 and he has not been seen in public since.

The SNA issued a statement saying Friday's fighting killed 56 Somalis and wounded 103 civilians. Hospital sources reported much lower figures but none could be confirmed.

The statement accused the U.N. of being an American tool and of responsibility for the deaths of dozens of Somalis since Washington launched air strikes against Gen. Aided in punishment for the June 5 ambush.

The SNA welcomed the Italian government's call for a peaceful solution to the crisis and urged U.S. troops to withdraw.

About 4,500 soldiers in the 18,000-strong, 24-nation force are American. A further 2,200 U.S. troops are in ships offshore.

Much of south Mogadishu, Gen. Aided's fiefdom, is virtually off limits to U.N. troops at present. Few U.N. patrols were seen and Italian troops had virtually disappeared from the streets.

The rest of the capital was calm. U.S. helicopters flew over the southern section.

Yemen locust plague spreads

SANAA (AP) — Most of the young desert locusts infesting eastern Yemen have grown wings and are starting to migrate, making it more difficult to control them, a U.N. expert said Saturday.

"They fly by day and settle at sunset. Next morning, after warming up for a couple of hours, they are on the move again," said Keith Cressman, locust reporting and forecasting officer from the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), who returned late Friday from a helicopter field survey near Yemen's undefined border with Saudi Arabia.

"They can only be controlled early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Our success is going to depend on finding the swarms in that short space of time," he said.

The 40 ground plant-protection teams rely on local information, which often is given reluctantly. "Since they like to eat them, local tribesmen might not be inclined to tell us where they are," Mr. Cressman told the Associated Press.

Besides their fondness for eating locusts prepared like shrimp, the tribesmen also want to protect their beehives from pesticides.

The ministry has launched a massive television and radio campaign to persuade the public to report swarms.

So far, the locusts have been consuming mostly wild vegetation, and the only major crop loss has been in the eastern citrus growing area of Harib.

In late April and early May, locust swarms landed in the eastern areas of Marib, Harib and Wadi Belhan, and most experts agree they were swept downwind from Saudi desert areas. Earlier reports suggested they came directly from the Horn of Africa, where the locusts originate, at least in the initial stages.

Finding breeding conditions excellent after unusually heavy rains, the swarms produced young. Five weeks after hatching, the young are ready to swarm.

Ministry of Agriculture officials said new swarms are reported every day. Areas under attack stretch from the northeastern town of Sada through the regions close to Saudi Arabia down some 400 kilometres to the southeastern area of Wadi Hadramaut.

Yemen locust plague spreads

Pope leaves hospital after health check

ROME (AFP) — Doctors gave Pope John-Paul II a clean bill of health Friday after follow-up tests at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome a year after intestinal surgery.

A Vatican spokesman announced, Joaquin Navarro said that the results of an abdominal scan were "normal" and that the Pope returned to the Vatican less than two hours after he arrived at the hospital. The Pope underwent surgery on July 15, 1992 for a benign tumour of the sigmoid flexure, the last curving part of the colon, ending in the rectum.

"The Holy Father went to the Gemelli Polyclinic to undergo a scan of the abdomen as he has done for periodic check-ups," Cardinal Navarro said in a communique. "The test was normal, as have been all others since the July 15, 1992 surgery." Cardinal Navarro said it had been carried out late Friday so as not to disrupt medical services and the Pope's engagements for Friday.

Clinton selects 1st woman to lead a military service

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton announced his nomination of astronautics Professor Sheila Widnall Friday as secretary of the air force, an appointment that would make her the first woman to head a U.S. service. Mr. Clinton lauded Prof. Widnall, 54, as "a woman of high achievement, a respected scientist, a skilled administrator and a dedicated citizen. I am confident that she will do an outstanding job of guiding the air force through this period of post Cold War change," the president said in a statement.

Prof. Widnall is the associate provost at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she also is a professor of astronautics and aeronautics. She is internationally renowned for her work in fluid dynamics, particularly in the areas of aircraft turbulence and vortices, the spiralling air flows created by helicopters.

Shirley MacLaine visits Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — U.S. actress Shirley MacLaine accompanied by former Australian opposition leader Andrew Peacock arrived in Cambodia Saturday to visit the world famous temples of Angkor Wat. The two were met at the airport by the Australian ambassador.

The actress, who won the Academy Award for her role in the movie Terms of Endearment, and the politician have been linked as a couple by the media. "I am here with Andrew," Ms. MacLaine said.

Ms. MacLaine, whose last big movie was Postcards From the Edge where she co-starred with Meryl Streep, said she and Mr. Peacock were to visit Angkor Wat Sunday. Australian embassy officials said Mr. Peacock's visit was private. But Mr. Peacock, who was in Cambodia to observe the May U.N.-supervised elections, said he would take advantage of the trip to get an update on the current political situation.

Ms. MacLaine said she was looking forward to her visit as she was here before in the 1960s and "really liked it." The actress received much press attention several years ago as a best-selling author of books on New Age philosophy where she advocated the use of crystals and claimed communication with age old spirits. "Angkor is a very special place," she said.

Michigan court rules little girl goes back to Iowa

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A 2-year-old girl must leave the couple who raised her since birth and go back to the biological parents she never knew, Michigan's top court ruled Friday in an interstate custody dispute. The State Supreme Court ordered the bright-eyed, brown-haired girl sent back to Daniel and Cara Schmidt in Iowa, saying Michigan courts have no jurisdiction in the case. The 6-1 ruling gives Jan and Roberta Deboer of Ann Arbor, Mich., who call the girl Jessica, until Aug. 2 to surrender her to the Schmidts, who call her Anna.

"While cognizant of the heartache which this decision will ultimately cause, this court is presented with no other option than that dictated by the law in this state," the court said. "It is now time for the adults to move beyond saying that their only concern is the welfare of the child and put those words into action by assuring that the transfer of custody is accomplished promptly with minimum disruption of the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindu leader charged in Bombay

BOMBAY (AFP) — Security forces were put on maximum alert in this Indian city after police pressed charges against firebrand Hindu leader Bal Thackeray for allegedly inciting Hindu-Muslim enmity, police said Saturday. The city's 30,000-odd police force, backed by paramilitary forces, had been asked to watch out for any possible backlash from Mr. Thackeray's militant Shiv Sena party, police Commissioner Amarjeet Singh Samra said. "We are prepared for anything," Mr. Samra said. "What law and order problems can they (Shiv Sena activists) create? The Shiv Sena is the main opposition in the Bombay Municipal Corporation and has some 20,000 cells, each with 50 to 100 members."

Radicals behind blast near U.S. base in Japan

TOKYO (R) — A radical group claimed responsibility Saturday for the firing of a homemade rocket at a U.S. Air Force base in western Tokyo, saying the action was in protest at next week's Tokyo Group of Seven (G-7) summit. Kyodo News Agency and other Japanese news organisations said they received letters from Kakurokuji (Revolutionary Workers) claiming responsibility for the botched attack on the U.S. base at Yokota last Thursday. The tiny group said the incident was just the first in a series it was planning to disrupt the meeting of leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan from July 7-9. The radicals launched a projectile that missed the base but hit a building under construction nearby, breaking some 20 windows. No one was injured and there was no other damage, police said.

Leftists attack peace marchers in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU (AFP) — At least 10 people were injured when nearly 9,000 pro-democracy demonstrators were attacked by leftist activists while staging a peace march in the Nepalese capital, police said Saturday. The peace marchers were appealing for calm in the wake of political agitation spearheaded by the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), after the recent deaths of two of its leaders and a contested government report. The peace demonstrators were attacked by a group of leftists armed with iron rods, sticks and bicycle chains, witnesses said. The attackers were reportedly led by NCP-UML parliamentarian Krishna Gopal Shrestha.

Amateur arms salesmen arrested in Ukraine

MOSCOW (AFP) — Police have arrested troops who stole anti-tank guided missiles from a depot in the southwestern Lugansk region of Ukraine in order to sell them, the Ukraine Defence Ministry said Saturday. Four missiles had already been sold by the time of the arrest and four others were found in the attic of a house, the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the ministry as saying. The name of the purchasers was not indicated. The soldiers were selling the missiles for 2,000 million rubles (\$2 million). The two-metre-long missiles are capable of destroying a target at a distance of 25 kilometres, Itar-Tass said. Substantial quantities of military equipment have been sold on a freelance basis by troops of the former Soviet army since the Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991.

Kurds demonstrate in Berne after embassy death

BERNE (R) — Thousands of Kurds demonstrated in Berne Saturday in memory of a Turkish Kurd who was killed nine days ago outside the Swiss capital's Turkish embassy. Police said nearly 5,000 Kurds, including women and children, marched silently through the alleys of central Berne past a coffin draped in the Kurdish national flag, surrounded by candles and displayed in a shop window. Organisers said the coffin contained the body of 29-year-old Semsettin Kurt, killed by a ricocheting bullet fired from the Turkish embassy compound during a demonstration outside the building Thursday, June 24.

Loyalists claim responsibility for Ulster riots

BELFAST (AP) — Pro-British "loyalists" tried to kill about 20 police officers in gun and grenade attacks in 15 hours of the worst city unrest in Northern Ireland for years, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) said Saturday. The Ulster Freedom Fighters staged the attacks in response to the RUC's "jackboot tactics" against loyalist paramilitaries and their families, a man who claimed to represent the Protestant paramilitary said in a call to a local radio station. Also Saturday, a bomb exploded outside the courthouse in Strabane, 100 kilometres west of Belfast, causing extensive damage, police said. The area was cleared after a warning and no one was hurt. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The RUC spokesman, requesting customary anonymity, described the 15 hours of rioting in nearly all loyalist areas of Belfast as the most serious since the 1970s.

Suspect held in Baq'a camp 'murder attempt'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestinian activist, described as a staunch supporter of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Saturday escaped an "assassination attempt" when explosives planted in his car went off prematurely, sources said.

The source said the car of Mohammad Yousef Al Wheidi was destroyed in the explosion which occurred at about 2 a.m. Saturday when an unidentified suspect was planting the booby trap in the 1979 Mercedes in the Baq'a Palestinian refugee camp, near Amman.

The suspect was wounded as a result of the explosion and was taken to hospital by police. No other people were injured.

Police sources confirmed the report but declined further comment, saying that the case was still under investigation.

They said the middle-aged male suspect denied any connection with the explosion and claimed that his wounds were incurred during a shoot-out at the camp, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan. Police are awaiting the medical report to determine the cause of the suspect's injury but sources in Baq'a camp said there was no shoot-out and assert that his injuries resulted from the explosion.

Sources close to the case claim other people were arrested in relation with the explosion but the news could not be independently confirmed and a police spokesman could not confirm it.

Mr. Wheidi told the Jordan Times that the "assassination attempt" against him came three months after he received a death threat from the militant Abu Nidal group. He said members of the group also tried to kill him three years ago when they opened fire at his car in the Baq'a camp.

Palestinian sources described Mr. Wheidi as a controversial figure who has a personal relationship with Mr. Arafat but holds no senior rank in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or its mainstream organisation, Fateh.

"Mr. Wheidi has recently emerged in Baq'a camp as an outspoken supporter of Mr. Arafat whom he defends with vigour whenever (the PLO chairman) comes under criticism from Palestinians. But he is a man who does not enjoy much (popularity) among camp residents," one Palestinian activist, who asked not to be named, said.

The well-informed activist said the attempt "could be the making of people who are politically opposed to Mr. Arafat and advocate violence as a means for settling differences. It has to be the making of a new kind of

France urges Israel to start direct contacts with PLO

MANAMA (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has voiced deep concern over the lack of progress in the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and urged Israel to start direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Juppe said the Palestinians should be "more realistic" and exhorted Israel "to be more flexible and show more openness."

The London-based Arabic-language Al Hayat newspaper reported Saturday.

He said Israel must "clarify the final objectives of the peace negotiations... and accept a direct dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation."

Israel this year lifted ban on contacts between Israelis and PLO officials but it still opposed

to official contacts with the Palestinian organisation.

Arab and Israeli negotiators included Thursday a 10th round of peace talks in Washington without making any progress, and Palestinians accused the United States of being pro-Israel.

Mr. Juppe, who Saturday started a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia aimed at boosting trade relations, also voiced concern over what he described as the "deterioration in the (Israeli) occupied territories."

"We have warned Israel of the baneful consequences which could result because of its fait accompli policy in Jerusalem," he said.

Elsewhere, Mr. Juppe said France will ask the U.N. Security Council to toughen sanctions against Libya if it fails to hand over Libyan suspects in connection with the bombing of a U.S. and a French plane.

The United States and Britain are demanding the extradition of two Libyans for trial in connection with the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

Libya has refused to hand them over to either country, triggering U.N. sanctions in force since April 1992.

France also wants to question other Libyan suspects in connection with the 1989 bombing of a French UTA plane over Niger that killed 170 people.

The council meets in August to review the sanctions.

Mr. Juppe told Al Hayat that it was clear Iran was a major player in the security and stability of the Gulf but it must also settle territorial disputes with its Gulf neighbours through negotiations.

Iran, which has an ambitious rearmament programme, has repeatedly stressed its sovereignty over three Gulf islands also claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Iran has invited UAE officials to go to Tehran this summer for talks aimed at resolving the dispute.

"Iran must behave in a way disproving suspicion of interference and prove it respects foreign laws. It is up to Iran to show that its natural strength is reassuring rather than threatening," Mr. Juppe said.

Iran marks downing of Airbus

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran Saturday marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. downing of an Iranian civilian aircraft over the Gulf which killed all the 290 people aboard.

Helicopters showered with flowers the spot where the plane went down in the Gulf, 40 kilometres south of Bandar Abbas, ships sounded their horns and the Iranian national anthem was played.

Defence Minister Akbar Toran and other Iranian officials attended the ceremony alongside relatives of the victims on four navy vessels in the Gulf.

The Iran Air Airbus was shot down by two missiles fired from the cruiser USS Vincennes on July 3, 1988, shortly after taking off from Bandar Abbas to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates.

The United States has maintained that the shooting was an accident, the plane being mistaken for a military aircraft.

A statement by Iran's Martyr Foundation, quoted by Tehran Radio, denounced the "U.S. government's crime," echoing Iran's position that the attack was deliberate.

Decision on contract for RJ privatisation is expected soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A final decision on bids submitted by eight international consultancy firms to supervise the privatisation of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier, is expected to be taken before the middle of this month, informed source said Sunday.

The sources said a technical committee has been studying the offers, which were invited following recommendation of an international auditing firm that the capital of the airline be raised to \$100 million so that it could overcome its severe cashflow problems.

The airline's present capital is JD 22 million (about \$33 million) and experts say that this is too small, given the extent of RJ's operation.

The technical committee is part of a larger, high-level committee chaired by the minister of transport which was set up last year to study the situation of the airline and come up with the best means to

The high-level committee has not met since the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali took office on May 29, but the technical committee has been continuing its work.

Among the companies whose offers are under studies are: Price Waterhouse, Arthur Anderson and Company, KPMG Peat Marwick, Ernst & Young, Touche Ross and Company and Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte.

The offers were submitted early this year and earlier expectations that a decision was imminent in February did not materialise.

A senior source dismissed a report in the European press that the high-level committee had decided to opt for "complete sell-off" of the airline.

"Regardless of whatever the term 'complete sell-off' means, no such decision has been taken," said the source, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

"Nothing has changed since last January, and the technical committee is expected to submit its recommendation to the

next few days," said the source.

RJ's operational records and strategies are deemed good by international experts, but the airline is burdened with over \$300 million in local and foreign debts, taxing it up to \$40 million in year in debt servicing.

The first phase of the privatisation process, according to the recommendations by auditors Arthur Anderson & Company, will be the transfer of part ownership to Jordanian government agencies and institutions such as the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Social Security Corporation and the Housing Bank. These institutions are estimated to hold about 40 per cent of the airline's debts.

The second phase will be implemented with shares offered to the private sector — both local and foreign — but the government will ensure that the controlling interest will remain with Jordanian institutions by limiting the shares on offer to foreign interests in 49 per cent, according to the